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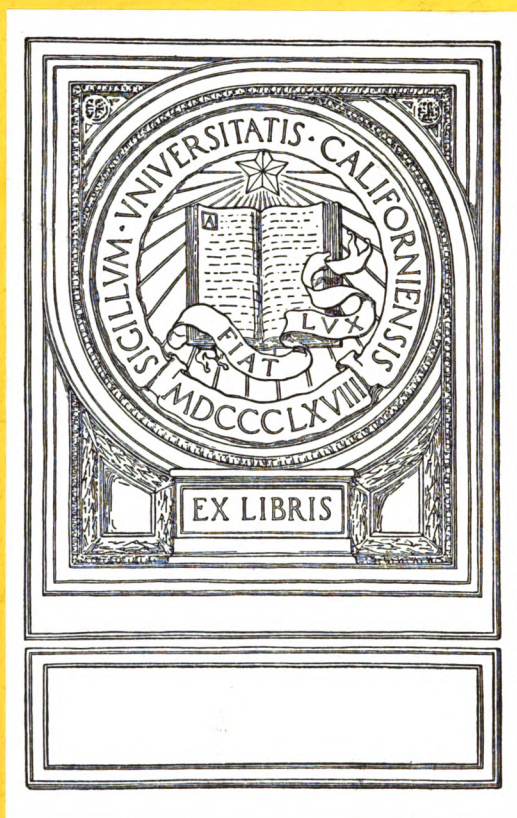


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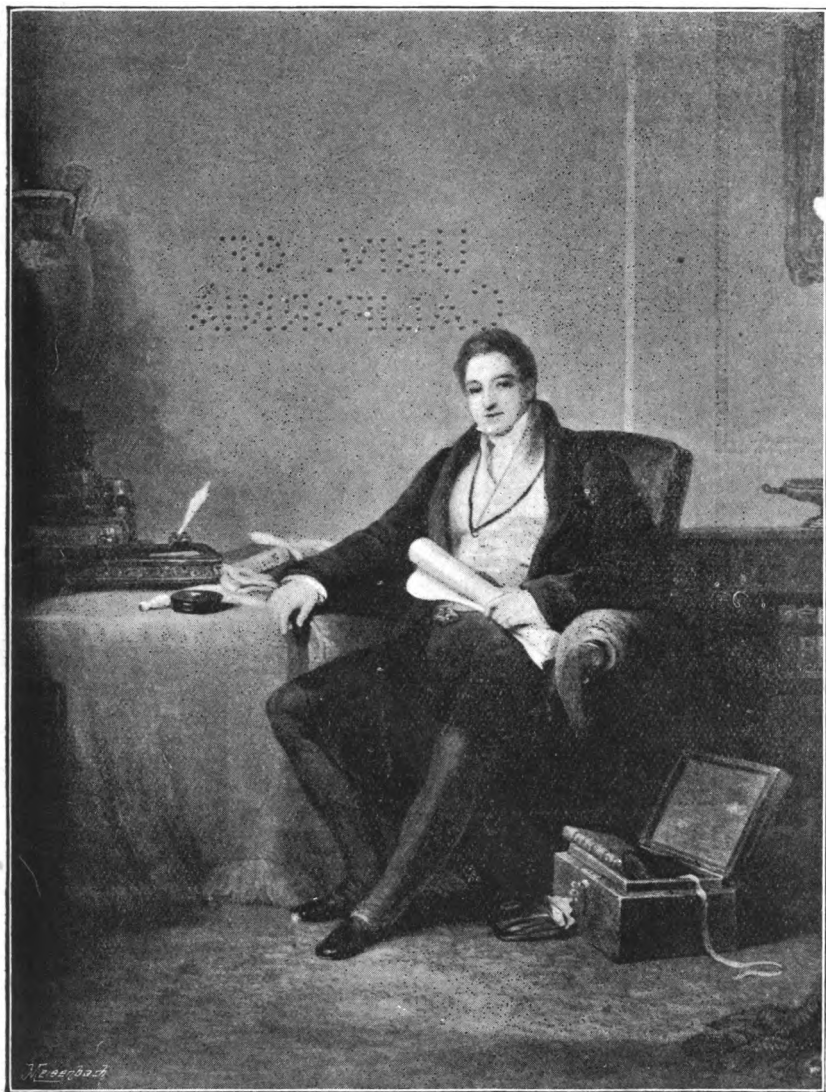




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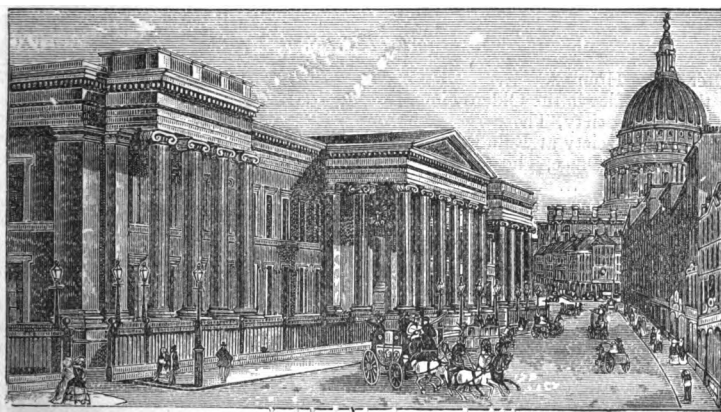
**SIR FRANCIS FREELING, BART.**  
(*Secretary, 1798-1836.*)

(See page 96.)



# ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

*EDITED BY F. J. BECKLEY.*



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# ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

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JANUARY, 1895.

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## *The Post Office System of Accounts with its Sub-Accountants.*



HERE is much that is interesting and instructive to be obtained from an examination of the system of accounts in force from time to time between the Metropolitan offices of account (London, Edinburgh and Dublin, as the case may be), and the Postmasters and Sub-Postmasters (collectively "the Sub-Accountants") of the United Kingdom. It would not probably be too much to say that in no direction could the progress in Post Office business, and the immense improvement made in its management in recent times, be traced more clearly than by a close comparison of the present with the past method of keeping the accounts of this great Department. It will not, however, be possible within the narrow limit of a magazine article to make such a comparison, nor can we here give anything at all approaching a complete history of the development of the account system, but an effort will be made to show briefly how the system has grown up, and how it has been brought into its present state of high efficiency. We do not say that our account system is perfect, for perfection implies finality, which is an unknown factor in Post Office affairs, but we say that its principles are sound, and that they are applied so as to allow for expansion of work, and this is probably as near perfection as circumstances permit.

In the following remarks we propose to take the system of accounts as between the Chief Office and the 9,200 sub-accountants of England

and Wales, as typifying the account system for the United Kingdom, and it will be understood that no attempt can now be made to deal with the Foreign and Colonial and other subsidiary accounts, nor with the final making up and balancing of the departmental accounts as between the Postmaster-General and the Treasury, the various Government Departments, and the Bank of England. Such information as could be given on these points would doubtless prove of interest, but the quantity of matter involved altogether precludes the attempt on the present occasion. Those members of the service who are outside the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office may not, however, consider it uninteresting if we take this opportunity to give them some general insight into the detail working of the account system, somewhat beyond the point to which they are carried in ordinary official routine.

It seems to have been the practice, from very early days, for each mail bag to contain a letter bill or docket, on which the despatching Postmaster (or "Deputy") entered the amount of postage to be collected on the letters then forwarded, for it will be remembered that until the introduction of the "Postage Label Stamp," the postage on inland letters was usually, though not necessarily, paid on delivery. In this way Postmasters raised a charge against each other, and the letter bills being forwarded to the Chief Office, they were used as a means of check on the amount for which the receiving Postmaster had to account. We may remark, in passing, that the principle of this system survives to the present day, for Postmasters bring to account "unpaid postage" by means of postage stamps affixed to their charged letter bills. The charges on the letter bills, added to the postage received for Foreign letters, &c., made the Debit side of each Postmaster's account, whilst his payments for wages, allowances for missent and dead letters, and his cash remittances, made the Credit. For London District letters there was an elaborate system of check and counter-check between the clerks at the Chief Office and the letter carriers, and the postage was paid over by the latter two or three times a week. We have not been able to obtain a copy of the first printed form of Postmaster's Account, but at page 457 of the October number of *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, will be found a copy of the form of account used by Scotch Postmasters in 1830, and in another part of this article we give a specimen of the form of account in use in 1850, called the "Quarterly Abstract," and there is no doubt that these forms are enlarged and improved copies of the earlier form. Leaving the precise shape of the first account form an

open question, we find that up to 1854 the accounts were made up quarterly at the Chief Office and for this purpose each Postmaster transmitted the following returns:—

Receipts.	Returns made.	
<p>Amounts received for the postage on letters }  sent to London direct }</p> <p>do. do. cross post receipts ...</p> <p>do. do. ship letter ,, ...</p> <p>do. do. postage on Foreign }  Letters and for private letter boxes }</p>	<p>Daily</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>do.</p> <p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Forming the Debit.</p>
<p>Payments, &amp;c.</p> <p>Amount claimed in respect of postage on }  Missent and Dead letters, &amp;c. .. }</p> <p>do. paid for incidental allowances ...</p> <p>do. do. Guard's Wages ...</p> <p>do. do. ship letter gratuities ...</p> <p>To which must be added the following credits collected from the books of the Chief Office :—</p> <p>(A) Remittances of Net Revenue (forwarded)</p> <p>(B) Fixed Salaries, &amp;c. (paid) ...</p>	<p>Monthly</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>do.</p> <p>do.</p> <p>Weekly, Fortnightly, or Monthly, as the case might be</p>	<p>Forming the Credit</p>

Those Postmasters who "farmed" the "bye posts" seem to have paid the amount agreed upon separately, as it does not appear to have been included in their quarterly account.

The balance, called the "Revenue Balance," arrived at by the quarterly account, was at first remitted to the Chief Office within the quarter to which the account referred, but later on provision was made for a "balance brought forward" and a "balance in

hand." The early forms of account all suffered from the fatal book-keeping mistake of having the entries made for Postmasters (at the Chief Office) instead of by them (locally), and as each account was necessarily rendered some weeks in arrear, we shall see presently into what difficulties the department was led by this system. Suffice it now to add that as a rule no vouchers were required for the payments made, but each Postmaster had to sign and return his account as correct, or furnish his reason for not doing so. There is good reason to believe that many Postmasters signed the accounts without understanding them, and without the slightest reference to the accuracy of the figures involved.

In 1792 the Money Order system was started by some of the clerks at the Chief Office on their own account, and it was not until 1838 that it became a recognized branch of the Post Office establishment under a President. In a book of instructions to Postmasters issued in 1846, we find some amusing literature, and we must beg permission to give a few extracts, for instance, "no Money Order must be issued for a sum exceeding £5, and the money must invariably be paid at the time." Postmasters were to apply to the Secretary for authority "to alter the office of payment of a Money Order," and "to issue duplicate orders;" also under severe pains and penalties they were at once to inform the Secretary "if any Money Order failed to bear its proper serial number," and "if any Money Order Advice was received not wafered or sealed," every advice when received was "to be copied into a book and immediately forwarded to the metropolitan office of account." Until quite recent times the Money Order Forms and Accounts were complicated and cumbersome to a degree which appears incredible, voluminous detailed information concerning all issues, payments, and remittances was kept by Postmasters and also at the Chief Office, and the system of check and counter-check was carried to a perfectly ludicrous extent. It is true that by the arrangements made a "Money Order Balance in hand" was at last arrived at, but as the two sets of accounts were compared about one month in arrear and as the "corrections" invariably led to a wrangle extending over an indefinite period, it will be seen that there was very considerable difficulty in ascertaining at any precise period the exact state of a Postmaster's Money Order Balance. It must be borne in mind that Postmasters had to keep their "Money Order Balance" entirely distinct from their "Revenue Balance," but under special authority from the Chief Office, transfers were sometimes made from one account to the

other. In consequence of the uncertainty surrounding the exact state of the balances, much cogitation and trepidation were caused to the officers of the Money Order Office who had to authorize the despatch of small remittances to enable Postmasters to carry on the Money Order Service, while no Postmaster could be written to as to arrears of cash on Money Order Account without reference to the state of his Revenue Account.

Three separate Departments of the Chief Office were at this period (1838—1853) engaged in keeping the Post Office accounts, viz.: The Accountant-General's Office, the Receiver-General's Office, and the Money Order Office, some accounting work was also done in the Secretary's Office, for we find that the salary bills and payment warrants were commenced in the Secretary's Office, and completed in the Accountant-General's Office. Most of the work of the Accountant-General's Office was a duplicate of the work of the Receiver-General's Office. In this way the "Revenue Cash Account" (*i.e.*, the Chief Office record of the revenue cash collected, and the remittances, &c.), the "Vote Cash Account" (*i.e.*, the expenditure under the different heads of voted services), and the "Money Order Cash Account," were all kept in duplicate. Remittances from Postmasters on Revenue Account and Money Order Account respectively, had to be sent in separate covers (even if forwarded on the same day) to the Receiver-General, and an advice of each remittance had at the same time to be sent to the Accountant-General. Remittances to Postmasters were authorized by the Money Order Office, recorded by the Accountant-General, and sent by the Receiver-General. Both "inward" and "outward" remittances were usually made in half Bank of England notes, causing three letters (including the advice) for each "inward" remittance. The "inward" remittances were also made by bankers' bills having very long periods to run, and by a large number of country bank notes.

The great alterations brought about by Sir Rowland Hill in 1840 did not at the time greatly affect the system of accounts, but provision was made for charging Postmasters' accounts with the value of the postage stamps supplied to them. Each supply of stamps for Postmasters was authorized in the Secretary's Office, from whence the requisitions were forwarded to the Accountant-General, and from him to the Receiver-General, who issued the stamps. No stamps were supplied to Postmasters on the first of each month, nor on a Friday. The stamp requisitions made by London letter

receivers, in addition to passing the Rubicon of the three offices mentioned, had to undergo the scrutiny of the "London District Office," but the letter receivers revenged themselves on this arrangement by giving as much trouble as possible, and by applying nearly every day for small consignments of stamps, and for a long time they refused to fill up the official forms correctly.

In 1847, the Money Order System involved a loss to the revenue of £10,000; this was undoubtedly due to the high charges made to the public, and the general inefficiency of the system, and also to the heavy expense incidental to the unnecessarily elaborate system of account. It is only fair to the heads of the Post Office at this period to bear in mind that they were fully occupied with the rapidly increasing amount of postal work and with the pressing alterations thereby necessary, and had no time to devote to a revision of the accounts. Nevertheless, there were forces at work within the various accounting offices, with the view of avoiding duplication of work and saving clerical labour, and the result of these endeavours will be seen when we come to consider the great changes of 1854.

Through the kindness of Mr. J. F. Parsons, Postmaster of Alton, we are able to present to our readers a copy of the Alton "Quarterly Abstract" of Accounts for the first quarter of 1850. This specimen of the form of Postmasters' account in use in the period now under notice (1847—1853) is of unique interest, it is the last of its race, the old system of account keeping is about to pass away for ever, and we shall herald directly the birth of a new order, the forerunner of the modern system of accounts. Our readers will not fail to notice that according to this venerable statement there remained a balance of 18s. 11d. due to the Postmaster-General by the late Postmaster, Mr. J. Bryant (who remained in office until his death, so recently as 1889), but in those good old days, so small a difference would hardly be worth mentioning, so no doubt the letter of acknowledgment was duly signed and transmitted to the Secretary, and all parties, we trust, were satisfied.

But to return to our story—as time went on and the postal changes assumed a more definite shape, the unsatisfactory state of the accounts, and the extent to which the dual system of book-keeping had extended, forced itself on the attention of the authorities, and in 1853, the Treasury appointed a Committee "To inquire into the department of the Post Office." The Committee consisted of the late Lord Elcho, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Charles Trevelyan, and

(1850.)

## GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON.

## QUARTERLY ABSTRACT OF CHARGE AND DISCHARGE.

Mr. John Bryant.

Postmaster of *Albem.*

CHARGE.		£	s.	d.	DISCHARGE.		£	s.	d.
For London Letters, 6th January to 5th April, 1850	...	39	15	7	By Our Office	...	33	17	10
For By and Cross Road Letters	...	55	18	10	Conveyance of Mails, and Messengers' Wages, &c.	...	17	10	0
For Penny Post Letters	...	2	13	10	Salary to Postmasters, &c.	...	5	15	0
For Local Letters	...	1	8	11	do. for Sub-Deputies and Receivers...	...	7	13	8
For Ship Letters	...	...	...	...	Letter Carriers	...	...	...	...
For Postage Stamps	...	78	17	6	By Local Letters	...	...	...	...
					Money Orders	...	...	...	...
					Companions for	...	...	...	...
					Late Letters	...	...	...	...
					By Postage on Stamps sold	...	...	...	...
					By Dead, Misent, and Re-directed Letters	...	...	...	...
					By Incidental Allowances	...	...	...	...
					By Guards' Wages &c.	...	...	...	...
					By Gratuities paid on Ship Letters	...	...	...	...
					Total Amount of Payments made in Cash, and Bank Notes, and Bills which became due and were paid within the Quarter ended 5th April, 1850	...	70	0	0
					Errors excepted.	...	...	...	...
					(Signed) CHAS. COMPTON, Accountant-General.	...	141	3	9

N.B.—It is necessary in making your Remittances to this Office, that you should take the precaution not to send whole Notes when payable to Bearer; and all Letters to the Secretary, for the Receiver-General, containing Remittances must be entered upon your Letter Bill as Money Letters.

The following Form of a Bill of Exchange is not used for the purpose of making your Remittances on account of the Revenue:—

"April 10th, 1850.

"Twenty-one days after date, pay to Thomas Young, Esq., Receiver-General of the Post Office Revenue, or Order, £ s. d. ... received of A.B., being Her Majesty's money."

"C.D." London.

"To Messrs.

When Bills require endorsement, the following is the proper form:—

"Pay Thomas Young, Esq., Receiver-General of the Post Office Revenue, or Order."

Bills for the payments of the Installments must be made payable within 21 days from the date they are despatched.

Important.

You will immediately examine and compare this Abstract with the entries in your own Books, and state forthwith any apparent Errors or Omissions which you may discover, in a separate Letter, addressed to the Secretary, particularizing in the cases marked thus (\*) the Amount of each Month; when you have satisfied yourself that the Abstract is correct, you will sign the Letter of Acknowledgment, and transmit it to the Secretary.

Mr. Hoffay. Their report is dated 30th May, 1854, and although we must now confine ourselves strictly and very briefly to the references made in it to the account system, it is much to be wished that in Volume II. of Mr. Joyce's "History of the Post Office" (which the Post Office Service hopes to see in good time) we may be able to note the full bearing of the far-reaching changes brought about by the suggestions of this Committee and by the efforts of the officials of those days who well gave those suggestions practical effect. Before, however, dealing with the suggested alterations in the accounts, we would direct particular attention to that portion of the report which deals with the state in which the Committee found the account system, and we do so on the grounds of interest and warning; of interest, because of the remarkably clear insight which the report gives into the Post Office arrangements of the past; and of warning, because the report shows so plainly how in an ever increasing and advancing business it is absolutely indispensable that the details of the machinery should be adjusted as rapidly as possible to its changing requirements, for should a fatal "*non possumus*" block the way, not only does the ordinary conduct of business suffer severely, but a day of reckoning will surely come when the most drastic alterations will hardly suffice.

With regard to the Receiver General's Office, the Committee reports:—"As a detailed explanation of the long list of books in which the monetary transactions of this department are recorded would afford little or no information, we shall merely observe that some of them are kept still in much the same form as when first established in the reign of Queen Anne. Others have been added to meet the requirements of later times but with very little attention to economy of labour, for they involve constant repetitions, and although we do not question the accuracy with which they have been kept, still true as they may be, they have not enabled the department to furnish the Commissioners of Audit with a monthly Cash Account properly so called, *i.e.*, a simple statement of the actual receipts and payments of each day from which the cash balance on any given day could be readily ascertained. To arrive at this result from these books is a work of some labour, for they include expected receipts as cash actually received, and payments to be made as cash actually paid."

With regard to the Accountant-General's Office, the Committee points out that "it is one of the principal duties of the Accountant-General to act as a check on the Receiver-General, but this is done in some instances in a set of books which are nearly the counterpart of those kept by the Receiver-General." The books of the Book-keeping Branch were found to be "far too numerous, and occasion much unnecessary labour. Five clerks are employed in raising a charge against Postmasters by entering in bill books each letter bill sent with



unpaid letters from London and received with paid into London, the outward bills are returned to Postmasters daily, and at the end of each month every Postmaster sends up a detailed statement of the whole unpaid and paid, which is an exact counterpart of the Bill Book. It is therefore obvious that it would be sufficient to check the Postmaster's monthly statement against the bills themselves, and not with an entry made from them. The amount of this profitless labour may be estimated by the number of persons employed on it."

The report goes on to call attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the system of Quarterly Revenue Accounts, to which reference has already been made. But on this point we have fortunately discovered (in the first report, for 1854, of the Postmaster-General) a report by Mr. Scudamore, when Chief Examiner in the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office, which so graphically describes the state of the Postmaster's accounts at this time, that we make no apology for introducing it here to the notice of our readers.

Mr. Scudamore says :—" Each Postmaster's account was rendered to him quarter by quarter, and usually three months in arrear of the quarter for which it was rendered. At any intermediate period the condition of the account could only be estimated, and that with the greatest uncertainty and risk. Each Postmaster was credited quarterly with a gross sum for salaries, wages, and allowances, but no vouchers for the proper disbursement of that sum were demanded from him ; so that in fact (as was afterwards proved) many Postmasters received credit for sums which they did not distribute, and were indeed themselves unconscious of the wrong done to the Revenue ; finally, this dilatoriness in the rendering of the accounts to the Postmasters, whilst it left them always ignorant of the real state of their affairs, entailed a corresponding dilatoriness in the rendering of their balances, whereby not only many of them may have been tempted to use the public money, but also a much larger capital was required for carrying on the business of the Post Office."

We now call attention to some of the principal recommendations of the Committee with regard to the treatment of the accounts.

These recommendations may be summed up as follows :—

- I. That the two departments of " Receiver-General " and " Accountant-General " should be consolidated, and that the consolidated department should be presided over by one head, to be designated " The Receiver and Accountant-General."
- II. That the business should be apportioned amongst three branches:
  - (a) A Cash Branch, with a " Cashier " as principal, for the receipt of the Revenue and the payment of the expenses of collection.

- (b) An Examining Branch, with a "Chief Examiner," for the examination of all vouchers, bills, and accounts, whether of receipt or expenditure.
  - (c) A Book-keeping Branch, with a "Principal Book-keeper," for the keeping of all books of account, the preparation of the estimates, of the salary lists and warrants, and of the accounts to be rendered to the Commissioners of Audit and others, and all Parliamentary returns.
- III. The introduction of a weekly statement of Revenue receipts and payments to be made up by the Postmaster himself, and to be accompanied by the necessary vouchers in support of his payments, as well as of his receipts.

There were many other recommendations dealing most fully with a revised system for keeping the accounts at the Chief Office into which we cannot now enter. In many respects and in their general outline they are still in force.

Let us learn the opinion of Mr. Scudamore as to the practical outcome of the suggestions of the Committee. He says:—"It may be affirmed with certainty that not only have all the great changes which the Commissioners planned been completely carried out, but that many minor changes of the greatest importance to the working of the new system, but with the details of which the Commissioners were necessarily unacquainted, have been successfully effected so that the Receiver and Accountant General's Office may be said to have attained the shape and condition at which it was intended to arrive and to have got into thoroughly efficient working order much sooner than could have been reasonably expected."

"But though the amalgamation of the Receiver and Accountant General's Offices appears to be the great fact in the history of the department, yet the introduction of weekly accounts for Postmasters (though it relates to one branch only of the department) is a fact of far greater importance when we consider that under the new system each Postmaster renders his account week by week with its proper vouchers for every receipt and every payment, and showing the revenue left in his hands at the close of each week to be the smallest possible sum, it will be allowed, I think, that few Government offices have witnessed a change so great or so beneficial."

We have been so fortunate as to obtain a copy of the weekly form of account of which Mr. Scudamore speaks (with the drawing up of which there can be very little doubt he had much to do), and a copy of it is annexed to this article (headed "1854").

The introduction of this form marks an epoch in Post Office account keeping. It is a distinct advance on any form hitherto in use, and it is not too much to say that it forms the basis of the

modern account system. We must now content ourselves with pointing out the important principle here shown for the first time, of calling upon each Sub-Accountant to strike his own balance, and (when necessary) to correct it (weekly) by "Balance of Errors" notice from the Chief Office.

The Committee suggested several alterations in the Money Order accounts, amongst others a simple form of Ledger account for showing the daily transactions and balance in hand of each Postmaster, and this was the precursor of the "Post Office Ledgers."

The old system was, however, continued in the Money Order ledgers of striking the balances for Postmasters (subsequently checked by a monthly statement), and it will be observed that the Revenue ledgers and accounts, and the Money Order ledgers and accounts, were still travelling side by side. If only the Committee had grasped thoroughly the position and suggested the amalgamation of the Revenue account with the Money Order account, the most important of the changes of 1868 would have been anticipated, for it took fourteen years from the date of the Committee's report to place the Post Office accounts on the really satisfactory basis of the present day.

But notwithstanding the improvements already made, alterations were still necessary in the Money Order Office system, and in 1859 a Departmental Committee, consisting of Mr. Rodie Parkhurst (Chief Clerk in the Secretary's Office), Mr. Scudamore (Receiver and Accountant-General), and Mr. Jackson (Controller of the Money Order Office), was appointed to further revise the whole management. This Committee reported that "by the withdrawal of certain checks which proved to be no longer necessary, and by other judicious alterations, the work of the office might be so reduced as ultimately to afford a saving of £4,000 per annum." The recommendations were carried into effect with very beneficial results, in fact, in many respects the detail work of the Money Order Office is still carried on by the methods then suggested.

On the 16th September, 1861, the Post Office Savings Bank Department first opened its doors to the public, and provision was made in the Money Order accounts and ledgers for showing the Savings Bank transactions and for including in the Money Order balance of each Sub-Accountant the net result of his daily Savings Bank transactions.

The then Postmaster-General (Lord Stanley of Alderley), in his seventh report, states: "The machinery for carrying the (Post Office Savings Bank) scheme into effect has been chiefly framed

and devised by Mr. Chetwynd (the Book-keeper of the Money Order Office) and Mr. Scudamore (the Receiver and Accountant-General), to whom I feel much indebted for the ability and care they have bestowed on the subject, and which I trust in practice will be found successful."

An experience of over thirty-three years has shown conclusively the soundness of the principles carried out in the Savings Bank accounts by those two most able men, and has amply justified the trust of the then Postmaster-General.

For some time the entries in the Revenue account had become too numerous to be conveniently dealt with in one account, and steps were therefore taken to separate the items paid under the Parliamentary Vote from the purely revenue items, the two accounts being thenceforth known as the "Revenue Account" and the "Voted Service Account" respectively.

But the account system as a whole was not yet satisfactory, and in 1867 a meeting was held, present, Mr. Scudamore (second Secretary), Mr. Chetwynd (Receiver and Accountant-General), Mr. F. R. Jackson (Controller), and Mr. William Farmer (the able Chief Clerk of the Money Order Office), to consider a scheme proposed by Mr. Chetwynd, with the view of combining in one daily cash account the whole of the daily transactions of each Postmaster, and of amalgamating the Revenue balance with the Money Order (and Savings Bank) balance. Mr. Chetwynd's proposals were authorized tentatively, and on the 2nd April, 1868, certain selected men from the Money Order Office were temporarily transferred to the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office, to carry out the new scheme. A copy of the form of Cash Account (as now in use) will be found attached to this article (headed "1895"), and although slight alterations in detail have been made from time to time, in all essential features it is the exact counterpart of the form first suggested by Mr. Chetwynd. The Revenue Account was revised and the headings and columns in the old Money Order ledgers were altered so as to bring them into exact agreement with the headings in the new form of Cash Account, and from thenceforward (to the present day) these ledgers became "The Post Office Ledgers."

This splendid alteration, brought about by the ability of one man, swept away, as with a magician's wand, the whole of the old double system of accounts and balances, with its monthly statements, its double remittances, and its long delayed agreements and adjustments. Under the new system, each Sub-Accountant renders daily

to the Receiver and Accountant-General in a clear and concise form, a properly balanced Dr. and Cr. statement of his account with the Postmaster-General showing the day's transactions (under every head of service), and showing also the money value of every item composing his "Balance in hand" for which he is responsible to the Postmaster-General. It is an important part of this system, as our experience has shown, that every item brought to account is immediately checked at the Chief Office against subsidiary vouchers, and that any error discovered is at once notified to the Sub-Accountant concerned, who has to adjust it in his next cash account by a Dr. or Cr. entry as the case may be. Consequently when each cash account has been properly checked and entered in its proper ledger folio, the exact state of any Sub-Accountant's account with the Postmaster-General can be seen at a glance. The correctness of the several items in the cash accounts and of the "Balance in hand" being locally tested at periodical intervals, renders the check on the accounts complete. Some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the work involved and of the careful arrangements necessary in order to insure correctness in the accounts and ledgers, when we mention that the amount passed through the cash accounts of the Sub-Accountants of England and Wales during the twelve months ended 30th September, 1894, exceeded £246,000,000. The new system was not, however, carried to a successful issue without great difficulty, and those who took part in its inauguration will never forget their experiences of the extremely hot summer of 1868. Very careful and minute instructions had been issued, but the errors made by the Sub-Accountants in nearly every cash account for a long time were simply appalling, and taxed the skill and power of application of those engaged on the work to the utmost, indeed Mr. Chetwynd said that he "never would have believed that Postmasters could have rendered their accounts in such a tangle." But when the "Money Order Balance" and the "Revenue Balance" were brought together, "O, what a fall was there." We surmounted our difficulties at last, and there was this satisfaction about the work, which remains to the present day, that the accounts were properly adjusted once for all, and, if our successors will only follow the principles then laid down, can never, collectively, get wrong again. The errors that this revision brought to light, and the difficulties that had to be surmounted to adjust them, showed conclusively the miserable muddle into which the accounts had drifted, and the urgent necessity there had been for a thorough revision; moreover

(1854)

## A WEEKLY STATEMENT OF RECEIPT AND PAYMENTS TO BE FORWARDED BY POSTMASTER:

\* \* \* This Account to be sent to the Accountant-General by Monday's Post.

Postmaster at \_\_\_\_\_ in Account with the Postmaster-General, for the week ended the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 185

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
Balance brought from preceding Account, viz. :-				Balance of Errors on previous Accounts ... £ s. d.			
Cash ... ..				Dead, Mis-sent, and Re-directed Letters ... ..			
Postage on Letters undelivered ... ..				Dead Letters ... ..			
Postage Stamps { Labels ... ..				Mis-sent and Re-directed Letters ... ..			
Envelopes ... ..				Salary of Postmaster ... (Payable Monthly)			
Balance of Errors on Previous Accounts ... ..				Allowances for Assistants ... (do. do.)			
Amount of UNPAID Letters received, viz. :-				Compensation for loss of Fees ... (do. do.)			
				Foundages to Postmasters and Sub-Postmasters on the Sale of Postage ... (Payable Quarterly)			
Total Number of Unpaid Letters Bills which should accompany this Account according to the last Instructions ... ..				Salaries of Clerks ... (do. Monthly)			
Sunday ... ..				Wages of Letter Carriers ... (do. Weekly)			
Monday ... ..				Ditto of Rural Post Letter Carriers ... (do. do.)			
Tuesday ... ..				Ditto of Sub-Sorters, Messengers, Stampers, and Postmen ... (do. do.)			
Wednesday ... ..				Subsidised Sub-Postmasters and Reserves (including Allowances for Delivery) ... (do. Quarterly)			
Thursday ... ..				Allowances on Money Order ... (do. do.)			
Friday ... ..				Wages of Letter Carriers at Sub-Post Offices ... (do. Weekly)			
Saturday ... ..				Incidental Payments ... (Whatever made)			
Totals ... ..				Wages of Mail Guards ... (Payable Weekly)			
Amount received for PAID Foreign and Colonial Letters and Newspapers, viz. :-				Gratuities on Ship Letters ... (Whenever paid)			
Total Number of Paid Letters Bills dispatched during the week, according to the last Instructions ... ..				Transfer to Money Order Account ... ..			
Sent by London ... ..				Remittances made to London (see Balance in last)			
" Cross Post ... ..				• Balance in hand on the 1st, viz. :-			
" Railway ... ..				Cash (fractional part of a Pound) ... ..			
Amount received for Ditto ... ..				Postage on Letters undelivered ... ..			
Value of Postage Stamps received { Labels ... ..				Postage Stamps { Labels ... ..			
Envelopes ... ..				Envelopes ... ..			
Transfers from Money Order Account ... ..							
Cash Remittances from London ... ..							
Norm.—This Account must be accompanied by all the Letter Bills, and by a Receipt for every payment made.							

Examined by \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk to Postmaster.

(Postmaster's Signature)

[1895.]

Bond £

Full Stock of Stamps—£

Dr. CASH ACCOUNT of the Head Postmaster for the day of 189 Cr.

RECEIPTS		AMOUNT			For use at Chief Office only	PAYMENTS		AMOUNT			For use at Chief Office only
		£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.	
Balance brought forward .....						Balance brought forward .....					
Balance of Errors (see per Voucher enclosed) .....						Balance of Errors (see per Voucher enclosed) .....					
Revenue and Voted Service Account .....						Revenue and Voted Service Account .....					
Money Orders Issued .....						Money Orders Paid .....					
Commission .....											
Savings Bank Deposits .....						Savings Bank Warrants Paid .....					
I. From G.P.O.— Cash .....						Remittances despatched this day { I. To G.P.O. ....					
II. From Inland Revenue Office:— Licences .....						II. To other Offices .....					
Do Issued in Schedule .....						Postal Orders Paid .....					
Postage Stamps. } Envelopes, Cards and Wrappers ... }						Balance in hand, ...					
Inland Revenue Stamps £ : : }						<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>£</p> <p>Postage Stamps uncollected</p> <p>(a) Stamps supplied on credit</p> <p>Inland Revenue Stamps uncollected</p> <p>Inland Revenue Licences uncollected</p> <p>(c) Postal Orders uncollected</p> <p>Postal Orders supplied on Credit</p> <p>(d) Vouchers of undischarged Payments, and Postage not collected</p> <p>Total</p> </div>					
Documents £ : : }						Balance of Errors (to be inserted at G. P. O.)					
Postal Orders .....											
III. From other Offices .....											
Balance due to Postmaster .....											
Balance of Errors (to be inserted at G.P.O.) .....											
£						£					

Remittances received this day

Examined by ..... Opening Balance Examined and Account posted in Ledger by f .....

(a) The amount entered as Cash must consist of Cash exclusively and must be given in detail at the back of this Account daily, as per Statement (1).  
 (b) Receipts for the Stocks of Postage and Inland Revenue Stamps supplied on Credit must be held by the Postmaster.  
 (c) The amount of Postal Orders uncollected must be in agreement with the total entered on the back of the Postal Order Docket B.  
 (d) All payments must be claimed on the date on which they are made, if possible. If Vouchers are held over for any reason, the amount must be entered above and the Voucher must be described and the reasons given for their detention at the back of this Account, as per Statement (2).  
 Postage on undelivered Letters must be included here.

Cash over at end of day £ ..... Cash short at end of day £ .....

Stamp or Office

SIGNATURES.

..... Clerk to Postmaster.

..... Postmaster

the late Mr. George Richardson, when Principal Book-Keeper (than whom there was no one better qualified to give an opinion), said that "unless some such revised system of accounts had been inaugurated just when it was, the accounting arrangements necessary (two years after) in connection with the Post Office Telegraphs, would have been impossible."

Nor have the severest tests been wanting to try the strength of the new system. It is doubtful if a more severe test of any system of accounts could be found than that brought to bear on the cash account system (in the amount of money and also the number of transactions involved) by the additions to it of :

1. The collection of licence money for the Inland Revenue Department in 1869 and extension in 1870.
2. The acquisition of the Telegraphs in 1870.
3. The introduction of the postal order scheme in 1881.
4. The payment of allotment and pension money orders for the Admiralty and War Office in 1882, and extension in 1894.

Yet the cash account system has carried us triumphantly through it all, and it still lives and flourishes, a lasting memorial of Post Office energy, care, and foresight.

The three Treasury officials (Lord Welby, Sir Arthur Blackwood, and Mr. R. Mills) appointed in 1873 to inquire into the post office account system, bore high testimony to its efficiency. Their report is dated 29th May, 1873, and two extracts are here given. They said : "The system we have described of a simple cash account sent to headquarters daily by every postmaster in the kingdom, together with the occasional verification of cash balances at uncertain dates, enables the Post Office to exercise the most perfect control over its numerous staff of agents." . . . "We think it but right to state that the sketch which we have given fails to do justice to the well-planned organisation of the department—an organisation which has moreover adapted itself to the demands of a continually increasing business, and which secures an effective and prompt control over so numerous a staff of agents. We believe in this respect the administration of the Post Office is highly efficient." This independent testimony, coming at the time and under the circumstances that it did, was extremely valuable, for it will be remembered that at this period the Post Office financial arrangements were somewhat under a cloud. We must not, however, dwell any longer over the manifold beauties of the cash account system, but proceed with our record.



The amount of unpaid postage entered on the letter bills had for a long time been reduced to very small proportions, and as each amount necessitated a corresponding entry in the revenue account, it was arranged in 1877 that the postmasters charged with these amounts should bring them to account by means of postage stamps affixed to the respective letter bills. In this instance the parent borrowed an idea from its child, for the "short charges" on telegrams had, from the time of the transfer, been brought to account by means of stamps affixed to the telegraph "surcharge" forms. Much work was saved by this simple alteration, and the opportunity was taken at the same time to join the revenue account with the "voted service account," and the headings in the cash account were altered accordingly, and this is the last great alteration made to the present time, in the detailed arrangements of the cash account system.

We will now describe very briefly (for we fear that we have long outrun the kind attention of our readers) the treatment of the cash accounts and vouchers after their receipt in the Receiver and Accountant General's Office.

The Sub-Accountants now make up and forward their cash accounts, with their corresponding vouchers, to the Chief Office the day after the date to which the accounts refer. Every morning about 9,200 brown paper envelopes containing the accounts, &c., are received in the sorting room of the Receiver and Accountant General's Office. About 14 hours' work suffices for the whole of the 9,200 cash accounts to be examined, checked, and entered in the ledgers, ready to be sorted into lockers for future reference if required. On receipt in the Receiver and Accountant General's Office the accounts, &c., are sorted into Head Office, London Sub-Office, and Provincial Sub-Office divisions, the accounts in each division being also in alphabetical order, and they are then taken to:—

- (i.) The Cash Account Branch:—In this branch the whole of the entries in the cash accounts are checked against the corresponding vouchers and with the entries in the sheets recording the Dr. and Cr. remittances, &c. A balance of errors is raised on any incorrect cash account, and we may say frankly that some of these errors give rise to much trouble and correspondence. The cash account vouchers having been checked as regards the totals carried to the cash accounts, are passed on to other branches of the Receiver and Accountant General's Office and to the

Money Order Office and Savings Bank Department, respectively, for inner detailed examination, and the cash accounts are forwarded to :—

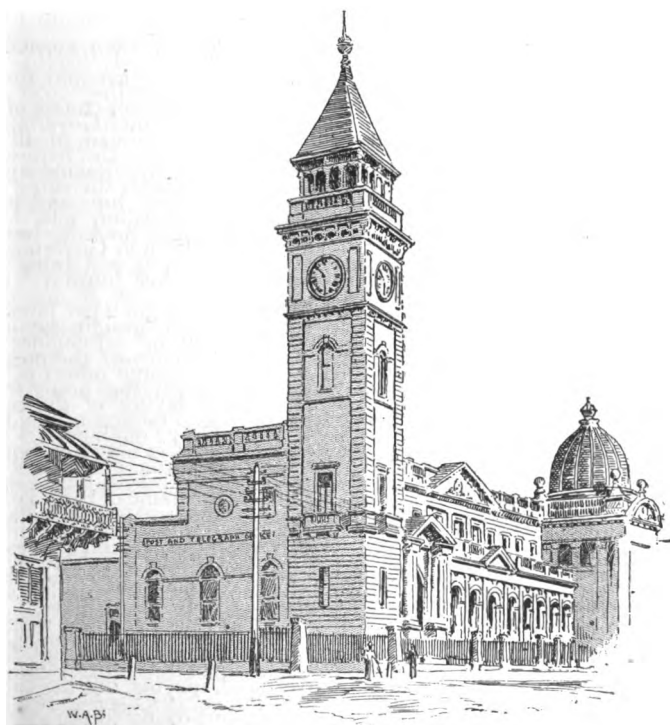
- (ii.) The Ledger Branch:—It will be remembered that the headings in the cash accounts and ledgers have been brought into exact agreement, each ledger folio is arranged to show the daily Dr. and Cr. transactions and “balance in hand” of one Sub-Accountant for one month (according to his daily cash accounts), the entry of one cash account occupying one line of the folio. At the end of each month these lines of entries are cast and the total of one month’s transactions (under every head) of one Sub-Accountant is thus brought on to one ledger line. The several ledger line totals of all the Sub-Accountants are then entered in summaries, in sections, and each section (containing about 50 Sub-Accountants’ totals) is cast, and the several totals are checked. These sectional totals are then carried to the “General Summary,” where they are cast and finally checked, and by this simple arrangement the totals of all the Dr. and Cr. transactions, under every head, of all the Sub-Accountants, for one month, (with the Balances) are brought, perfectly checked, on to a single line, and here, after handing the figures to the Principal Book-keeper for further manipulation, we must leave them and bring our sketch to a close.

We have failed in our endeavour if we have not brought home to each of our readers an impression as to the efficiency of the present system of Post Office Accounts. But, to return to the point from which we started, we must not be understood as implying in any way that the (inner) detailed arrangements of that system may not require alteration and modification as time goes on and Post Office work expands. On the contrary, we claim as one of the greatest advantages of the system that it so readily lends itself to the expansion of present work and to adaptation for new work, and we think that the measure of its success is to be gauged, in great degree, by this facility. We remember that the adaptation of to-day becomes the improvement of to-morrow, and that it is along this line that the Post Office is travelling. One word in conclusion.—If our remarks serve no other purpose, they may at least help to recall the good work done in the past by many good men who have contributed so much to the present Post Office success, and our humble tribute shall not be

wanting to their worth. But a retrospect may serve also as an encouragement, for it shows how, perhaps by very slow degrees, "here a little, and there a little," great reforms and improvements are at last effected, and thus Post Office workers, past and present, are linked together, but under this head no more need be said :—  
"*Si monumentum requiris circumspece.*"

R. & A. G. O.

A. J. ADAMS



POST OFFICE, BALMAIN, N.S.W.

(From a Photo. by G. Boseley.)

## *An ill-fated Cable.*

AN EPISODE OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR.

1870-71.

**T**OWARDS the end of the Franco-German War the North of France was actually without any direct telegraphic communication with the Government of the "Défense Nationale," which had made Bordeaux its headquarters, and it was therefore deemed necessary to lay a cable to connect telegraphically the North with the South of France.

The Cable Ship "International," belonging to the India-Rubber, Gutta-Percha and Telegraph Works Co., was proceeding down the Thames on her way to lay a single wire cable for the French Government from Dunkirk to Bordeaux, when she was stopped at the request of the German Ambassador in England, on the plea that the cable was contraband of war and thus prohibited. The question was, however, settled, after some delay, in favour of the French Government, and the "International" was allowed to resume her journey. She arrived in the Dunkirk roads on the afternoon of the 23rd January, 1871, when Messrs. Droguet, an inspector, Raynaud,\* an engineer of the French Telegraph Administration, and a telegraph officer of the Dunkirk office, went on board to attend the laying of the cable under the supervision of Messrs. M. & R. Gray, engineers. The "International" then steamed slowly southwards and anchored opposite the intended landing place, known by the name of the "Pointe de Gravelines," about six miles from the small town of Gravelines, and ten miles from Dunkirk. The operation of coiling the shore end of the cable on board a lighter began the next morning under very unfavourable circumstances, for the sea was rough and the weather foggy and bitterly cold. The lighter, in tow of a pilot tug from Dunkirk, started about mid-day towards land, paying out the cable, of which there were three miles on board; but owing to the state of the sea the progress was so very slow that the ebb-tide and night

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\*Afterwards murdered in Paris.

set in before the lighter could get near enough to the coast to complete the work. As it was dangerous to go any nearer land, the remaining cable coiled on board the lighter was thrown into the sea in bulk.

The attempt had thus so far failed, in fact it was openly acknowledged that the cable was in danger of being embedded and lost in the muddy ground on which it had fallen unless an attempt were made from the coast at the following low water to find it and drag it ashore. A kind of council of war was then held on board the "International," when it was decided that the one and only chance of recovering the shore end should not be lost. The telegraph officer received instructions from Mr. Matthew Gray, and from his chief, the French Inspector, to return at once to Dunkirk, full power being given to him to do all that was possible to save the endangered shore end. He was to see the Commandant Supérieur Perigot,\* and to request him to give assistance and to furnish the necessary number of men for the attempt to be made.

It was late when the telegraph officer reached Dunkirk in a small boat through a fearful sea, and although he had had no rest since he joined the "International" on the previous day, he at once went on his errand. The Commandant, Perigot, gave him a pass to enable him to enter Gravelines during the night, and a written order to the commanding officer of that fortified place to grant the men (garde-mobiles and sailors) that the officer might require, and to afford him all help and facilities for the success of his enterprise. He reached Gravelines soon after midnight, and passed the rest of the night in assembling the men, 90 in number, at the head† of which he started at 5 a.m. for the spot where the cable was to be searched for and if possible brought ashore. He had taken with him pilots and fishermen who were provided with ropes and grapnels, and who knew the coast well. The weather was very cold and the journey of over six miles along the sea shore was all the more trying as snow was falling heavily at the time. The sight of the procession of those men, who had been awakened in the middle of their rest, was most impressive, silence was broken only from time to time by a loud cry of "attention" shouted by one of the guides, whose lantern was like a guiding star, showing them where to step and

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\*Chief Commanding Officer of the Dunkirk District, soon afterwards promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

†The telegraph officer wore the uniform of the military telegraphists, and had the rank equivalent to that of first lieutenant in the army.

what to avoid. One of the sailors having very judiciously remarked before leaving Gravelines that no "Cafés" would be found at the "Pointe," the officer had ordered the men to be provided with some spirits, bread and biscuits.

It was still dark when the column reached the spot where search was to be made, and it was only then that the real difficulties arose. No sign of the cable was visible, and it was not at all certain that it would be uncovered at low water ; it was urgent, therefore, to start work at once, as the tide would soon flow and it would most likely take some time to uncoil the cable, when found, and drag it ashore. That "time and tide wait for no man" was as true then as ever.

There was a moment of natural and quite comprehensible hesitation to enter the water on the part of the men, especially of the young "moblots" coming from the sunny south.\* A few patriotic words of the telegraph officer, who moreover set the example by entering the water, produced the desired effect, and all followed him pluckily and even gaily.

It was about 8.30 a.m. when one of the fishermen cried out "Voilà le cable, je l'ai !" A spontaneous and unanimous "Vive la France" rang through the air ; all previous fatigue, even the cold, was forgotten for the moment, every man ran to the spot knee-deep in the water. Then began the arduous work of untangling the cable and straightening the numerous kinks which, by their condition, showed how the lighter had been tossed about on the previous day. A piece of timber was fastened to the further end of the cable to act as a buoy ; it was afterwards replaced by a barrel. It was nearly noon when the end of the cable was brought into the wooden hut which had been built on the downs for its reception ; the bugle sounded a salute and another "Vive la France" greeted the successful completion of an enterprise which had been considered as most doubtful. The sight of the men, their faces blue with cold, and their clothes covered with icicles, dragging the cable on the sands and up the downs, was one not to be forgotten, and well worthy an artist's brush.

While the "moblots" marched back to their barracks at Gravelines, which they reached at 4 p.m., and enjoyed a well deserved rest, the telegraph officer was busy signalling to the "International," as agreed (by means of a large bon-fire on the top of the downs), that the cable was ashore. He had also to settle accounts with the fishermen and pilots, to write out his reports and transmit them on a Morse

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\* The men had been taken from a battalion of Garde-Mobiles du Gard, which was garrisoned at Gravelines.

instrument from the hut to Dunkirk, before he could at last repair to a fisherman's cottage near at hand, which was to be his abode for the next three weeks, and take some rest and food. The next day, 26th January, he had to superintend the digging of a trench for the cable in the sand, so that it would not be uncovered at low water, and to wind the surplus cable round the hut.

The cable had suffered severely from the roughness of the sea, nearly two miles of it had been untwined from the furthest point accessible at ebb-tide, and about half that length was brought ashore. A land line had been established from the Dunkirk office to the hut, to be connected with it; in the meantime the wire was brought into the fisherman's cottage and the telegraphist could thus communicate with Dunkirk.

Owing to the bad weather, the "International," which had been informed of the recovery and safe landing of the shore-end, had been unable until then to resume the work. A kind of fatality seemed, however, to be attached to this enterprise, for the "International," on leaving her moorings on the 26th, broke the cable. It was then decided that she should start the laying of it from the other end, and she left the roads in the afternoon on her way down the channel, escorted by two men-of-war.

A few days would now necessarily elapse before the ship could be back to pick up the broken end and splice the cable. The telegraph officer, during this interval, was called to Dunkirk by the Commandant Supérieur, who wished to hear direct from him how the cable had been recovered and landed. M. Perigot, in the presence of his officers, warmly congratulated the telegraphist on the success of his apparently hopeless mission, and assured him that proper mention would be made, in the report which was being sent to the government at Bordeaux, of the energy and skill shown by him in the fulfilment of his task. It need hardly be said that the telegraphist availed himself of his few hours visit to Dunkirk to take back with him some clothes and provisions, of which he was sadly in want in the wilderness where the hut was situated. The same night he returned to resume his watch for the coming of the "International." One can easily imagine the monotonous hours he spent in that isolated fisherman's cottage, for the surrounding country was covered with snow. The fisherman and his large family were good and hearty people trying to make his stay with them as comfortable as possible; still, he generally had to sleep without undressing on a straw mattress; the usual fare was coarse brown

bread, salt pork or salt fish, and a rabbit when one could be shot on the downs. During these long and dreary January nights, there was no other light than that afforded by a very primitive smoky oil lamp.

On the 2nd February, the "International" appeared at 8.30 a.m. in sight of the hut, and began at once grappling for the broken end; the operation of picking it up and of splicing the cable was completed by 5.50 p.m. In the meantime the end in the hut had been unsealed and connected with the testing instruments; at 6.15 p.m. the first signals were exchanged between the hut and the Cherbourg office, where the cable had been landed. The communication was found to be good, and the wire was afterwards connected through the land line with the Dunkirk office.

The bad luck which had been attached to the cable from the first had, however, not abated, for there was now no use for this telegraphic communication; an armistice, preliminary to a definite peace, having been signed on the 28th January. Very few messages were ever transmitted over this doomed wire, which was picked up for the French Administration during the summer of 1871. Part of the shore end was lost, however, and the fishermen near the landing hut knowing that "it is an ill wind that blows no one good," availed themselves of the opportunity to make ample provision of iron wire from the sheathing.

This is the sad record of an ill-fated cable, which is mentioned nowhere in the history of Submarine Telegraphy. The telegraph officer who was instrumental in landing it, and who has furnished the foregoing details, substantiated by official documents in his possession, was afterwards in the employ of the late Submarine Telegraph Company, and is now a clerk in the Secretary's office of this Department. When asked what reward he received for his labours and fatigue, he replied: "None whatever but the sentiment of having done my duty and served, as well as I could, France, at a time when she was sadly in want of the help of all her sons."

N. H.





THE LATE P. W. DE FRAINE.  
(Money Order Office.)

## *Money Order Office Gossip and History.*



F the many subsidiary undertakings now carried on under the direction of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General, the Money Order system is by far the oldest. The Telegraph Department and the mushroom growth in Queen Victoria Street are but things of yesterday compared with the Money Order Office, which can now look back on an eventful history of over a century. Not that the office has existed as a Post Office Department for that period ; since, as is generally known, it was only in 1838 that the system was taken over by the Post Office, and before that date the exchange of money through the post was conducted as a private enterprise.

It appears to have been on the 1st October, 1792, that three of His Majesty's Clerks of the Roads, with the approval of the then Postmaster-General, but at their own risk and for their own profit, first inaugurated the new system and founded what they called the "Money Letter Office." The whole plan seems now to the British public, and indeed to almost the entire civilised world, so much a matter of course, that sufficient credit is hardly given to the enterprising men who conceived and carried out what was then a new and brilliant idea. The three clerks traded under the name of Stow & Co.

(Mr. Stow being apparently the senior); and one of their earliest circulars was reprinted in the *Times* of 12 Oct., 1892. In this document directions were given to the Deputy-Postmasters to issue Orders and Advices very much as at present, the amounts paid and received being accounted for quarterly with the Clerk of the Road. It continues, "As a recompense for the trouble which you will have, you are to receive of the party sending any remittance three-pence in the pound, besides the stamp duty, and of the party to whom you pay any money the like sum in the pound, and the Clerk of the Road will, in like manner for his trouble, receive the same poundage, for which he will guarantee the safe conveyance of the money. As the great object of this plan is to prevent the embezzlement of letters containing money sent by post, the Postmaster-General wishes to recommend it to your attention, and hopes you will give every assistance in your power."

According to this notice it would appear that the commission charged was at the rate of 6d. per pound, besides the stamp duty on bills of exchange, which for £5 was then 3d., so that the cost of remitting £5 was 2s. 9d. The charge for remittances was reduced in 1793 to 4d. in the pound, but was again raised in 1797 to 6d., and subsequently to 8d., of which 6d. went to the issuing and paying Postmasters, and 2d. to the proprietors. The stamp duty appears also to have greatly risen, for in 1829 an Order for 40s. was liable to 1s. duty, and Messrs. Stow & Co. were then paying from £400 to £600 a year for stamp duty.

At first the amount of an Order was limited to £5 5s., and this rule was in force in 1829, yet there must have been some changes in the interval, for the 697 Orders issued in the three months ending 10th October, 1800, amounted to £8,863, giving an average of more than £12 each. An interesting reproduction of a Money Order of this period is appended to Mr. Joyce's work on the Post Office. Heavy as the charges were for Orders, they were not enough to work the system on a purely business footing, for whereas the ordinary postage from London to Bristol was 10d., the commission on an Order for £1 was only 8d., and it was therefore arranged from the first that all Money Order correspondence should pass through the post franked. No doubt this concession was obtained on the plea that the Post Office would gain by the greatly reduced risk of its general correspondence being stolen, since the public would no longer be compelled to enclose money in letters; but it would seem that the arrangement was hardly a beneficial one to the State, and this was the view strongly expressed in a report on the Post Office presented

by the Revenue Commissioners to the House of Lords in 1829. The Commissioners, of whom Lord Wallace was President, met with scant courtesy either from Sir Francis Freeling, the Secretary to the Post Office, or from Mr. Robert Watts, who was examined before the Commission as the principal working partner of "Stow & Co.," the proprietors of the Money Order Office. It appears that there



"All hope abandon, ye who enter here."

VIEW OF COLDBATH FIELDS PRISON FROM ROSEBERY AVENUE, SHOWING OUTER GATEWAY. THE UPPER PART OF THE INNER BUILDING IS THE CHAPEL, WHERE 100 CLERKS OF M.O.O. NOW WORK.

were then three partners who had each invested £1,000 as capital, and who each received about £240 a year profit. Mr. Watts was also one of the presidents of the postal department known as the "Inland Office," and received an official salary amounting, with perquisites, to about £2,000 a year. However, he seems to have been able to spend an hour or so a day in the "Money Letter

Office" then situated in Sherborne Lane, where he superintended the work of the clerks employed by his firm. He stated that the average number of free letters sent out per diem was 42. It is interesting to compare with this modest 42, the grand total of 42,000 which is the record number of Foreign Orders alone despatched in one day from the present Money Order Office. Mr. Watts was so abrupt with the Commissioners that it is not surprising that they reported strongly against his enterprise. They pointed out that the original purpose of the Money Order system was "stated to have been the security of small sums sent to soldiers and sailors principally," and they suggested that these payments could be arranged through the Army and Navy departments. Moreover they objected in general to private trading under official privilege, to the use by outsiders of the Secretary's frank, to the risk of the employment by deputy postmasters of public money for private purposes, &c. They therefore recommended that the privilege of free postage be withdrawn from Messrs. Stow & Co. This would of course have destroyed the whole system, and the Commissioners relented to the extent of adding:—

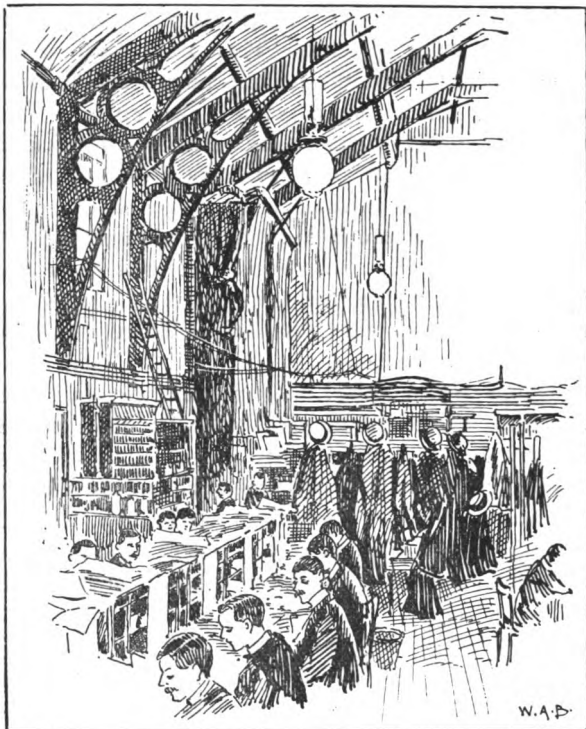
"If, however, it should be deemed expedient still to sanction an establishment of this description annexed to the G.P.O., its management should be directly controlled by proper officers of this department, and its produce be appropriated to the Revenue."

The profits of the Money Order Office were by no means the only or the principal private perquisites enjoyed by officers of the Post Office and attacked by the Revenue Commissioners, and we can imagine the howl of execration with which their report was received. It was nine years before a Postmaster-General had the courage or the power to act on the above suggestion, and obtain the sanction of the Treasury for the conversion of the Money Order Office into an official establishment. This was finally carried out on and from the 6th December, 1838, when the Money Order Office was transferred to the General Post Office, East. The amount of an order was at the same time limited to £5, and the commission reduced from 8d. in the pound to 6d. on every order of £2 and under, and to 1s. 6d. on sums of from £2 to £5.

In November, 1840, with the view of taking away all inducement to remit coin by post, the commission was again reduced to 3d. and 6d. instead of 6d. and 1s. 6d. But a far more powerful stimulus to the use of money orders was the introduction in the same year of Rowland Hill's penny postage scheme. The number of orders issued went up by leaps and bounds. In 1839 it was 189,000, in

1840, half a million, in 1841, one and a half millions, and in 1853 five millions. When the business was first taken over, Mr. F. R. Jackson, who had previously been a tutor, was appointed chief clerk. Although this event took place fifty-six years ago, Mr. Jackson, who was superannuated in 1871, through failing health, is still alive, and must indeed now have reached a ripe old age. However, the office was not allowed to continue without a more dignified figure-head than a mere chief clerk, and in 1841 a President was appointed, whose name it is better to omit. What this gentleman had done to earn the appointment is not clear. It is said, indeed, that he was a timber merchant at Yarmouth, that his premises were used by the Returning Officer for a certain political election, that they were "unfortunately," as Mr. Weller would have said, burnt down at a critical moment, and that, in reward for his services, he was transferred from the ruins of his timber yard to St. Martin's-le-Grand. Certainly, if half the stories one hears about him are true, he was in his way a very remarkable man. Hourly his bell was rung. The messenger appeared. "What did I have last?" "Half-a-pint of stout, sir." "Then bring me half-a-pint of bitter." Another hour passes, and the same form is gone through. "What did I have last?" "Half-a-pint of bitter, sir." "Then bring me half-a-pint of stout." In those days, and right up to the time of the great Money Order Office revolution in 1876, one of the most conspicuous articles of the office furniture was the pewter pot. At about 11 a.m. the potman from the old "Raglan," opposite, used to come over with a great tray full of pints and half-pints, and a now almost forgotten generation of clerks used to drink with much hilarity the healths of their friends. "Your health, John!" would be answered from the far corner with "Here's long life to you, Bob." The potman undoubtedly thought he was an almost indispensable member of the Money Order staff, and is said to have sharply reprimanded, with a sweetness of language peculiar to his class, the Secretary of the Post Office, for not making way for the pots to pass him on the stairs. *Altera tempora alteri mores*. The pewter pot is a thing of the past, so is also, to a great extent, the jovial good-fellowship which used to mark the life of civil servants. Alas! the time has gone by, too, for those nice little chops and steaks (with bread, two vegetables, and half-pint of beer—8d. in all) which used to come over at mid-day from the above-named ancient hostelry. The "Raglan" has now become a "hotel," and is far above fourpenny steaks.

The first President appears to have been peculiarly amenable to the softening effects of a judicious present. The clerk who wanted a holiday would call in at Sweeting's, and buy a brace of pheasants. Then he would look in on the President. "Good morning, sir, I have just brought you down a brace of pheasants." "Oh, thank you, Mr. So and So." Presently, Mr. So and So would come down again. "Oh, sir, I wanted to take a month's holiday." "Certainly,



INNER VIEW OF CORNER OF CHAPEL. EXAMINATION BRANCH IN FOREGROUND. IN FAR CORNER, WINDOWS BEING ENLARGED.

Mr. So and So, and if you want to be away a little longer, just send up word." No wonder that when the besom of reform swept through the office it was found possible to save half the "work" of the department.

Of course there have always been a large number of able and energetic men on the staff of the office, but certainly the old system

of nomination—in the days when even qualifying examinations were still unheard of—used at intervals to introduce some queer specimens of humanity. There was, *e.g.*, old Joey F——, an able man whose intellect had been destroyed by alcohol. He would start work sometimes at 7 a.m., or work up till 10 p.m., and always get his day's work done by ten o'clock the next morning; yet he seldom did anything during the regular official hours. One day the Controller sent for him. "Mr. F——, why were you not at the office yesterday?" "Indeed, sir, I was not aware that I was absent." He was probably drunk during the whole of the day in question. Another, perhaps more of a humourist, called upon to explain his absence from duty on a Saturday, wrote: "My absence to-day was really not intended on my part; I mistook the day of the week, and thought to-day was Sunday." Then there was ——, of a very different type. He used to conduct his devotional exercises in so loud and demonstrative a manner as finally to cause him to prematurely receive his pension. To these, as to many more, we may safely apply the statement which an Irish postmaster recently gave in answer to an official enquiry—"The remitter is not alive, nor can I find any trace of his whereabouts."

Both clerks and paperkeepers used in early days to come in by batches whenever a new Postmaster-General had an opportunity of using his patronage. It was thus that some three or four Cumberland men were appointed to the Money Order Office, and there being then no railway communication with London, they hit upon the economical idea of hiring a farmer's cart to drive up to town, and thus arrived, not without jolting and delay, but with a large part of their coach fares saved. Of the appointment by Lord Lonsdale of a batch of minor establishment men, mostly his personal dependents, a token long remained in the shape of his lordship's stable clock, which continued to adorn the entrance hall of the old Money Order Office till its recent destruction.

To return now from personal gossip to our history, we note that on 1st March, 1847, the office was moved from St. Martin's-le-Grand to the ugly and lofty building in Aldersgate Street. When the new office was opened it was stated—not without grim satire, to which recent events have given a deeper meaning—that "the building was not intended to be an ornament to the city, but *only* the Money Order Office." An illustration of this building, which was pulled down five years ago to make room for the new Post Office North, was published in a recent number of the *St. Martin's*.\*

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\* See Vol. III., p. 352.

In 1850 Mr. Jackson became President, and soon proved himself a very different man from his predecessor. One unfortunate clerk failed to recognise the new order of things, and deposited, as of old time, a little present in the President's room. I cannot ascertain for certain whether it was a brace of birds or a barrel of oysters, but at all events the clerk was soon sent for, and had to ignominiously remove his proffered bribe. Before this time the office had grown enormously, and the staff consisted of a President and no fewer than 160 clerks. The state of things was certainly ripe for reform, which was effected in 1854 in accordance with a report of the Treasury Commissioners, who, with Sir Stafford Northcote at their head, made a thorough investigation into the whole working of the Post Office. Sinecures and perquisites were swept away in wholesale fashion throughout the Department, and the Money Order Office had its full share of attention.

The chief reform effected by this Commission was the establishment on broad lines of the system of three classes of clerks all through the Post Office, a fixed staff being assigned to each branch. These classes survived till recently, and when the chaos introduced into the service by the "Playfair" and "Ridley" Commissioners has been eliminated, no doubt the Post Office authorities will hasten to restore the only intelligible system of arranging the staff which has yet been suggested for their great Department.

For the Money Order Office the Commissioners of 1854 recommended that the President should be called the Controller, and they fixed the scales of salary as follows:—

Controller	...	...	£500	by	£25	to	£700
Chief Clerk	...	...	£350	"	£20	"	£450
1st Class Clerks...	...	...	£260	"	£10	"	£350
2nd "	"	...	£180	"	£7 10s.	"	£240
3rd "	"	...	£80	"	£5	"	£150

At the same time a qualifying examination was instituted and brought about a decided improvement in the calibre of the clerks.

Mr. Jackson had already, it appears, effected a saving of labour equal to that of 75 clerks, but the Commissioners still complained of the complication of the books, and of the unnecessary number of checks employed, and the carrying out of their suggestions dispensed with 21 more clerks. One trembles to think of the awful amount of labour wasted in book-keeping in the early days of the Office, for we find that in 1859 another committee was appointed to still further



simplify the system. This was a departmental enquiry, and the committee consisted of Messrs. Parkhurst, Scudamore and Jackson. These gentlemen found out how to save £4,000 per annum, and in 1861 the Postmaster-General complacently reviews the progress of reform as follows:—

“The extent to which improvement has been carried, by simplification and otherwise, in the mode of conducting the Money Order business may be judged of by the fact that whereas in the year 1847 the Chief Office in London, with little more than half the present amount of duty, required a force of 226 clerks, with a large payment in addition for extra work, the present force is only 112 clerks, without any extra work. If the number of clerks in the London Office instead of being reduced, had increased, and that in proportion to the amount of business, it would now be about 430, as contrasted with the actual force of 112, showing a virtual decrease of nearly four to one. Concurrently with these changes, the salaries of the clerks have been increased, and their labours somewhat decreased. While this great improvement has been in progress in the London Office, the general financial results of the Money Order system have exhibited a change equally striking; for whereas in 1847 the system involved £10,000 loss, it last year yielded more than £28,000.” (We may add for comparison that in 1893—94 the net profit was £41,944.)

It is well enough for the reformers to plume themselves on the results of their work, but what are we to say to the imbecility, or worse, that produced the former state of things? What a comment on the good old system of political appointments! Yet they are not dead!

One, most far-sighted reform was instituted in 1854, when “crossed” Orders were first allowed to be paid through banks without the usual formalities. Another new plan, this time a bad one, we may refer to in passing. “In 1854 the Treasury sanctioned an arrangement for enabling the public to procure requisition forms for Money Orders *more readily* than was then possible, by substituting for their gratuitous distribution a *sale* of requisition forms, at the rate of one penny for ten forms, or a halfpenny for five or less.” This arrangement, curiously enough, was commenced on the 1st April, and though it brought in £135 in the first three months, it did not long survive.

On 14th June, 1856, the Saturday half-holiday was first granted to Post Office officials, and Mr. Jackson, in his annual report, says: “I also feel bound to state that the officers generally seem fully to appreciate the great boon accorded by the early closing on the Saturday”; and another departmental report states that the arrangement was “as advantageous to the public service as it is to the

officers of the department." Among the improvements resulting from the committee of 1859, was the abolition of the distinction between "major" and "minor" offices. Minor offices were not previously allowed to issue Orders to a greater amount than £50 on any one day, and their advices, instead of going direct to the paying offices, had all to pass through the Chief Office. Then the



THE CELLS, NOW USED FOR POSTAL STORES.

rates of commission were adjusted, being increased for smaller amounts, and the maximum limit of an Order was (1st January, 1862) increased from £5 to £10. Arrangements were also made for enabling Orders to be issued payable ten days after date, and to avoid the remittance of trifling sums by coin, now that Orders for small amounts were dearer, facilities were given for the exchange of stamps for money, subject to a discount of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Meanwhile the number of Orders issued yearly was steadily rising, and had reached by 1862 the total of 7,587,000, for sums amounting to fifteen and three-quarter millions. But this total includes two items of the utmost importance in the future history of the office, as they contained the germs of most of its more recent developments—we refer to Government and Foreign Orders. Both these branches of business began in a small way, but no one will underestimate their importance who has had the misfortune to work in the Examination Branch during the quarterly “Army Order” rush, when some quarter of a million pension orders are paid in the course of two or three days, or who has worked early and late in the Foreign Branch during the Christmas pressure, or upon the Australian Mail days.

Almost from the first the Office has undertaken the free payment of orders issued by the various spending departments congregated round Whitehall, and the Commissioners of 1854 noted that every six weeks orders averaging £12,000 in value were paid on account of the “Committee of Education.” In 1864 free orders were allowed to be issued for the payment of Income Tax, and this privilege has since been extended to Legacy and Succession Duties, &c. But the greatest number of Government orders is issued by the Admiralty and War Office in payment of quarterly pensions to soldiers and sailors. No payment is made to the Post Office for this work, but the advantages that accrue to the pensioners are great and obvious, for by means of Money Orders they obtain payment at the nearest offices to their homes, instead of having to attend personally at central pay offices, and running the gauntlet of sharks, sharpers, *et id genus omne*. Last year no less than five and a half millions of money were paid by means of free Government orders issued by the War Office, Admiralty, Board of Trade, Science and Art Department, and other Offices. The fact that these orders are for *odd* sums (pounds, shillings, and pence,) averaging between three and four pounds, instead of the even amounts of ordinary orders, may seem a trifle to the gentle reader, but I can assure him he would probably soon drop his gentleness if put on to “cast” a few thousand of the much hated brown “army orders.” It is to be hoped, too, that the older generation of illiterate soldiers will soon disappear, for the trouble caused by the witnessing, checking, &c., of Tommy Atkins—his mark—is very trying to the officers concerned.

The story of the inception and growth of Foreign Money Order business, of the introduction of our unsafe but cheap and fascinating rivals, the Postal Orders, and, too, of the great crisis which shook the staff of the Office to its foundation in the anxious years 1874—76,

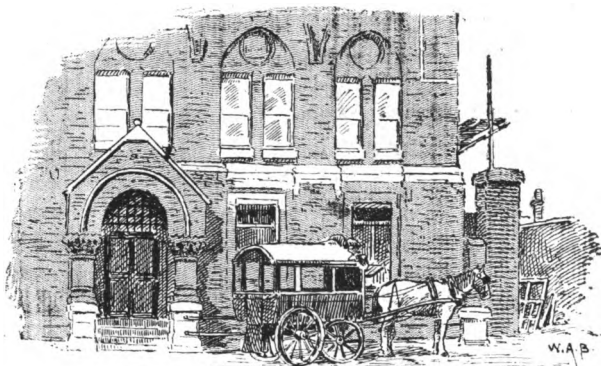
all this must stand over for another article. The general history of the Office has been told up to the date when, the Savings Bank being yet unborn, the Postmaster-General could say in his annual report :

“The Money Order Office, which was established in the first instance for the purpose of facilitating the transmission of small sums by poor persons, has gradually become the bank of the whole trading community, affording an almost absolute security to those who use it for remitting money from one part of the country to another.”

C. H. DENYER.

M.O.O.

*(To be concluded.)*



ENTRANCE TO MONEY ORDER OFFICE. IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE ONE-HORSE LINK CONNECTING SIBERIA WITH CIVILISATION.

## *Jugula Vane's Dilemma.*

**J**UGULA VANE was a highwayman  
Of Shrewsbury (near Wales),  
Who made what he could of a livelihood  
By stopping Royal Mails.

When first he essayed his robber trade  
A stringent oath he swore,  
The purport of which was "take from the rich,  
And also give to the poor."



You must allow that JUGULA's vow  
Was a sensible one to make,  
For a person who swore to take *from the poor*  
Would find much less to take.

His favourite swag was the R.L. bag ;  
He hated valentines ;  
And he'd laugh "Ho, ho !" and chuckle and crow  
When he saw the blue cross lines.

But alack, there came to JUGULA VANE,  
 As the galloping seasons ran,  
 The usual fate which soon or late  
 Cometh to every man.

For he fell in love with the daughter of  
 The Postmastèr of U—— ;  
 And was she dismayed at his dreadful trade?  
 No, BARBARA loved him too.



Her father cried, "You shall not go,  
 A robber's bride to be!  
 Who will prepare, when you're not there,  
 My cash account for me?"

The robber produced a rope, and bound  
 The father to his chair,  
 Then turned on BAB, and with one grab  
 He grabbed her by the hair.

Then up and spake the Postmastèr,  
 "Remember what you swore!  
 The purport of which was 'take from the rich,  
 And also give to the poor.'

*Without* my daughter, *I* am poor ;  
*With* her, *you're* rich, d'ye see ?  
 You're bound to take her from yourself  
 And give her back to me ! ”

“ I never thought of that,” said VANE,  
 “ But what you say is true ;  
 And therefore, though it breaks my heart,  
 I give her back to you.”



Then up and spake fair BARBARA,  
 “ Stay ! Recollect your vow !  
 You've made him rich again ; *you're poor* ;  
 What is your duty now ? ”

Said VANE, “ I never thought of that ;  
 My course of duty's plain ;  
 I've no alternative but this — ”  
 He took her back again.

Then up and spake the Postmaster,  
 “ But now you're rich once more !  
 You're bound to give her back to me  
 Just as you did before.”

“ Stop, stop,” cried VANE ; “ as soon as BAB  
 Has raised my hopes, you blight 'em ;  
 This might go on *ad nauseam*,  
 If not *ad infinitum*.

It's very clear there's a dead-lock here,  
 Or a kettle of fish, or a slough,  
 From which, no doubt, we might get out,  
 If someone told us how."

It chanced a man was sitting near,  
 Upon a parcel box,  
 Whose common-sense was simply immense—  
 Town Postman W. KNOX.



Said KNOX, "The two-edged swear you swore  
 Has got you into a scrape ;  
 But I may say I see one way  
 By which you may escape :

For BARBARA there has sworn no swear,  
 And whomsoever *she* seizes,  
*She's perfectly at liberty*  
*To keep, as long as she pleases."*

Oh, then she up and spread her arms,  
 And seized her JUGULA VANE,  
 And theirs was the pleasure of Love Restored  
 That followeth after Pain.



And they sang all night, by candle light,  
How Peace, in the golden time,  
Came down through the glimmering office glooms,  
Like the close of a song sublime ;



And the discord of souls to the winds was blown  
Like chaff from a threshing floor,  
And the one they loved was their own, their own,  
For ever and evermore.

LEO WOLFE.

## *The Post Office Guarantee Association.*

### A LESSON IN CO-OPERATION.

**T**HE facts which will be found stated in this account of a really phenomenal success in Co-operation may reasonably evoke surprise that others interested in Co-operative work have not directed attention to the benefits likely to result from the general application of the mutual principle to operations for providing fidelity guarantees. I have been asked to point the moral, and although I can claim no special aptitude for the work, I have willingly attempted the task, relying for interest upon the facts and figures which I have been able to collate.

Whilst the object of this article is to call attention to the progress of the Association, its results, and the benefit it has conferred on its members, it will perhaps be excusable if attention be called to one or two minor points which are thought to require consideration, and which, if not heeded, may lead to future trouble. It is unnecessary here to do more than allude very briefly to the inception of the Association, which took place towards the close of 1886, and was the result of the labours of a small Committee consisting of Mr. Freeling J. Lawrence, Mr. J. J. Cardin, Mr. E. Winter, Mr. A. Belcher, and the Secretary of the Association, Mr. H. Price. The rules having been framed by the Committee, were submitted to the then Postmaster-General, the Right Honourable H. C. Raikes, whose assent was given to the formation of the fund upon the recommendation of Mr. Algernon

Turnor, C.B., the Financial Secretary to the Post Office, and a notification appeared in the Post Office Circular of the 14th December, 1886, announcing that the Postmaster-General had "added the Post Office Employés' Mutual Guarantee Association, Limited, to the list of Associations from which he accepted Bonds."

The scheme for the formation of the Association provided that all Officers of the Post Office entitled to pension should be eligible to become shareholders, and that any such desiring to be guaranteed should take at least one share, of the nominal value of £5, for every £100 of guarantee required of him. The liability of the shareholder equals the whole nominal amount of his share or shares, but it was intended to call up only so much of the capital of the society as would produce, when invested, an income sufficient for the payment of claims and working expenses. The payment of an entrance fee, for working expenses, was also provided for. To the present time no capital beyond the sum of 5s. per share, payable on joining, has been called up. The fact of the members being legally liable for the full nominal amount of the shares held by them cannot be too strongly emphasized. It is this liability, now amounting to upwards of £250,000, which constitutes the security of the Postmaster-General, and it was the absence of this security which caused previous Postmasters-General to decline to accept the numerous schemes of Mutual Guarantee which had been suggested from time to time during the last 40 years. Although membership was, and is, optional, the success of the Association was immediate, and its progress has been little short of marvellous, as the following figures will show :—

Year ended	Number of Members and Officers guaranteed	Amount of Paid-up Capital	Assets
		£	£
31st December, 1887	5,451	2,571	2,840
" " 1888	8,951	4,255	4,678
" " 1889	12,601	6,627	7,714
" " 1890	15,448	8,941	10,957
" " 1891	18,674	10,703	16,277
" " 1892	20,661	12,468	21,837
" " 1893	22,864	13,100	26,397
" " 1894*	23,564	15,077	32,100

\* Partly estimated ; at the time of going to press the accounts were not finally adjusted.

Nor are the following figures, which indicate the extent of the liability of the Association to the Postmaster-General and to Postmasters, and the small number and amount of the defaults paid on behalf of members, less remarkable :—

Year ended	Approximate Amount of liability at date	Number of Defaults during year	Amount of defaults paid during year		
	£		£	s.	d.
31st Dec., 1887	1,025,000	4	147	13	7
" " 1888	1,643,900	4	214	15	10
" " 1889	2,349,700	6	196	7	5
" " 1890	3,142,200	8	151	9	0
" " 1891	4,297,200	3	135	17	7
" " 1892	4,901,100	16	848	6	9
" " 1893	5,267,000	27	1,050	15	8
" " 1894*	5,534,700	28	1,088	17	10

It will thus be seen that whilst the membership during the eight years of the Society's existence has averaged 13,526, the number of defaulters has averaged 12 only, and the total amount of the defaults £479 5s. 8d. per annum. Seeing that the amount of money which passed through the hands of Post Office employés during the year 1893 in the form of Post Office and Telegraph Revenue, Savings Bank deposits and withdrawals, Money Orders, Postal Orders, and Inland Revenue Licences, exceeded £90,000,000, this result is one of which the Service may be proud, and which would entitle the Postmaster-General and the Secretary to regard with satisfaction the personnel of the establishment over which they rule.

The working expenses have been as follows :—

				Amount		
Year ended				£	s.	d.
31st December, 1887	...	...	...	187	6	5
" 1888	...	...	...	123	4	0
" 1889	...	...	...	140	9	4
" 1890	...	...	...	206	13	10
" 1891	...	...	...	408	14	11
" 1892	...	...	...	625	5	10
" 1893	...	...	...	998	2	7
" 1894*	...	...	...	1,061	8	6

\* Partly estimated; at the time of going to press the accounts were not finally adjusted.

The increase in the working expenses since 1890 is owing largely to developments in the business, but prior to that date much of the work was undertaken, either gratuitously or for a nominal payment, by persons interested in the success of the Association. Remuneration for the auditors was first given in 1891, and in 1892 the Committee first got honoraria for their services. In each instance these payments were authorised by spontaneous action on the part of the members. The staff consists of women (the Secretary alone excepted) whose hours of duty are seven daily, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 to 1.30, their commencing pay, after a short probation, is £40 a year. They are allowed a fortnight's holiday in addition to Bank and public holidays, and, for the most part, are former Post Office employés or the daughters of employés.

The result of the working of the Association is that members who joined it during the first and second years of its existence paid 6s. (5s. capital and 1s. entrance fee) for a guarantee of £100, for which payment they have each been guaranteed for eight years. In March last the Committee declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year 1893, so that a member now retiring is entitled to receive back 5s. 3d. for each 6s. he then paid. The actual cost to him of his guarantee has therefore been about one penny per £100 per annum. It should perhaps here be mentioned that the entrance fee, which was 1s. per share during the years 1887 and 1888, has since been gradually raised to 15s. per share, but this merely represents, in addition to an adequate contribution for working expenses, the increased value of the assets of the Association, for which, of course, new members are justly required to pay, as they share them equally with existing members. To adequately appreciate the boon which has been conferred by the Association, it is necessary to compare the charges made in 1886, previously to the formation of this Association, by Guarantee Companies. The general rate at that time (1886) was 10s. per £100 per annum for bonds up to £1,000, for bonds exceeding that amount 7s. 6d., and in a few instances 5s. and 4s. It is within the recollection of many of the members that time was when the charges ranged from 20s. per annum for a bond of £100. The action of the Association soon resulted in a reduction of the charge by kindred institutions to 7s. 6d. per £100 per annum as a maximum.

In estimating the pecuniary advantages which have accrued to the members since 1887, it will be well within the mark if a rate of 5/- per £100 per annum be taken as the average charge the members

would have been required to pay for their bonds to the present time. On this basis the result is as follows :—

Year ended.	Approximate amount of Bond.	Amount of Premium at 5/- per £100 per Annum.
	£	£
31st December, 1887 ...	1,025,000 ...	2,562
" " 1888 ...	1,643,900 ...	4,109
" " 1889 ...	2,349,700 ...	5,874
" " 1890 ...	3,142,200 ...	7,855
" " 1891 ...	3,955,800 ...	9,889
" " 1892 ...	4,288,700 ...	10,721
" " 1893 ...	4,398,800 ...	10,999
" " 1894 ...	4,529,600 ...	11,324
Total		<u>£63,333</u>

Upwards of nine-tenths of this amount have been saved to the members, in addition to which a large saving has resulted from the reduction of the charges already referred to, to those officers who, though required to give bond, have not yet joined the Association. It is not to be inferred that the Companies would have made a net profit of this amount. Their operations are conducted at much greater cost than are the operations of a Mutual Society, and much more favourable results are obtained where, as in this case, all the members are interested in those results. A comparison of the relative cost of conducting this business by the Association and by Guarantee Companies would be interesting, but there are no data upon which to accurately base such a comparison, inasmuch as the Companies make an annual charge, whilst the Association, so far as its shareholders are concerned, does not. An estimate has, however, been framed and from this it appears that, were the charges for guarantees equal, the working expenses of the Association would be about 9 per cent. of its premium income. The working expenses of Guarantee Companies for the year 1893 ranged from a minimum of 24·6 to a maximum of 75·3 per cent. of the premium income. The loss ratio of the Companies for the same year ranged from 32·2 to 53·8 per cent. of the premium income. The loss ratio of this Association, calculated on a like basis, has been less than 10 per cent.

On this latter point it must be borne in mind that the Association has hitherto been extremely fortunate. Perhaps this has been owing to the care of the management, or possibly to good fortune, not unlikely to both. Whatever may be the cause, it is the fact that, whilst the Association guarantees a vast majority of the officers of the

Department, it has not been called upon to pay a relative proportion of the losses due to defalcations. For instance, it has escaped all heavy losses and particularly notable losses such as that of £500 in Yorkshire, £800 in Dorsetshire, £300 and £450 in London, and numerous others. This immunity from loss cannot be expected to continue indefinitely, and provision should be made for a considerable increase under this head, in fact reasonable caution would suggest that appropriations to the Reserve Fund should continue until the accumulations reach, say £30,000 or £40,000.

Whilst the advantages to its members from the establishment of the Association have been considerable, the Post Office Department must also have benefitted from it in no small degree. The procedure of the Department as regards guarantees has been facilitated, and the execution of a formidable legal document in the shape of a bond, a process both troublesome and expensive, has been abolished. Private Surety Bonds, which cause much work, and often inflict great hardship, have also been substituted in many cases by the bonds of the Association. Other details have also been simplified. To refer to these and minor advantages would unduly lengthen this article, and I will, therefore, before concluding, briefly refer to what I regard as the fly in the ointment.

At the last annual meeting an attempt was made by some officials of an association (which if not antagonistic to, certainly is not in sympathy with, the Post Office authorities) to oust the two retiring members of the Committee, Mr. Freeling J. Lawrence (the Chairman) and Mr. F. McDonnell. Ostensibly what was desired was class representation, but whether this was the real object or not, it cannot be too clearly recognised that, if the Association is to be as successful in the future as it has been in the past, the Committee of Management must be selected on the sole ground that they are the most competent men available, regardless of their position or rank. To say nothing of the ingratitude of endeavouring to oust the Chairman, to whom the existence of the Association is in large measure owing, and who has done it such good service, the members cannot, in my opinion, be too careful not to allow any organization of the nature of the one in question to exercise an undue influence in the control of the Guarantee Association, or any other association recognised by the authorities. I venture to think that no facts connected with the Guarantee Association can be more apparent than these, viz.: it exists only at the pleasure of the Postmaster-General; and for its prosperity depends not only on his goodwill, but also on the goodwill of those Postmasters who accept its guarantees. Let us suppose it

to be dominated by an organization such as that referred to, could we then expect undiminished support from Postmasters, and would the men of position and influence forming the present Committee, who have made it the success it undoubtedly is, continue to direct its affairs ?

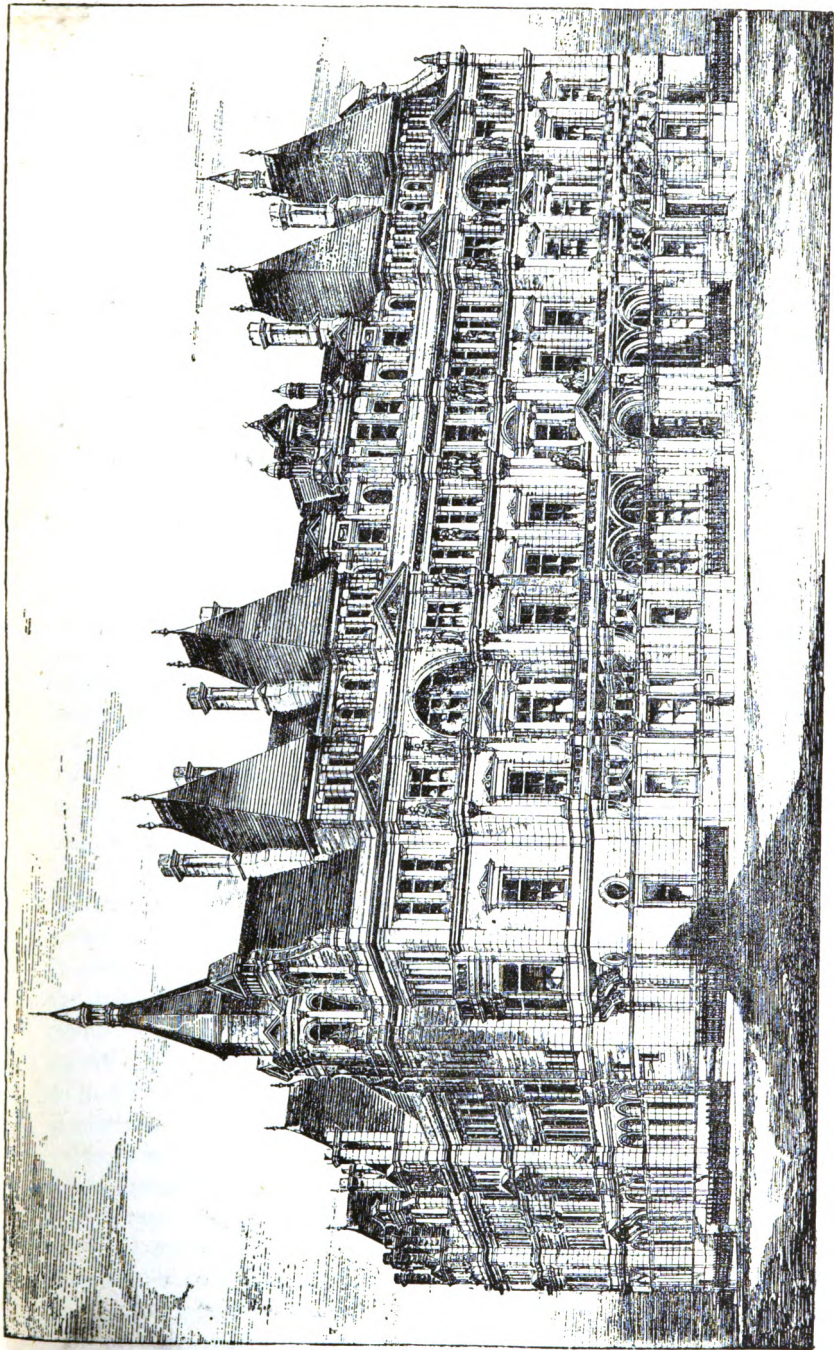
There is one other point which, I think, requires consideration. At present each shareholder has one vote and no more ; the most recently appointed officer, be he postman or sorter, or telegraphist or clerk, who becomes a shareholder has the same influence in directing its destinies as the Postmasters, say, of Manchester or of Glasgow, who not only hold the maximum number of shares allowed to any one member, viz., forty, but who also accept the guarantee of the Association to the amount of many thousands of pounds. Among the members of the original Committee which I have referred to, there must have been at least one ultra democrat, and here is evidence of his work. The rule is not equitable, and should be forthwith amended. If other reasons for taking this course are needed, they are to be found in the fact that the work entailed by the admission of a member is considerable and costly, many details, including the opening of a separate ledger account, being required to comply with the conditions of the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, and the regulations of the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The Establishment charges for a member taking one share are therefore identical with those for a member taking forty shares, whilst on the other hand, the losses paid on behalf of members holding one share have been, proportionately, greater than those paid on behalf of members holding two or more shares. The rule giving them, in addition to these advantages, an undue preponderance in the voting, and therefore in the management, is indefensible.

In conclusion, I would say that too much praise cannot be accorded to the Committee and the Secretary for the manner in which the work of the Association is organized and carried on. Notwithstanding the numerous transactions, the accounts are audited and balanced monthly. The Auditors, Mr. Compton (late Controller, Savings Bank Department) and Mr. Housden (Principal Clerk, Savings Bank Department), two exceptionally competent gentlemen, personally verify each item. The complete way in which the accounts are arranged is a pattern to be imitated, and the balance sheet places the shareholders annually in possession of the fullest information with regard to the position of the Society.

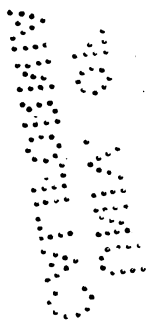
Engineer-in-Chief's Office.

H. C. HART.





THE NEW POST OFFICE NOW BEING ERECTED AT LIVERPOOL.



## *In re Brindisi ; the Indian Mail intervening.*



THE Editor of this magazine—a man for whom (naturally) I have a profound respect—has “approached” me on more than one occasion with the object of obtaining my written views on the subject of a trip to Brindisi and back in charge of the Indian Mail. I have told him that I have no views, and that, having done the trip so often, my mind has become a blank on the subject. The Editor, always incredulous, does not believe me. Let me think. Well, the only incidents which stand out forcibly in my recollection are two attacks of malarial fever which laid me up for three months each, and one railway accident: on which occasion, waking about 3 a.m. near Amiens from a feverish dream, I found myself on the floor of the allège and the train running a hideous race against time over the sleepers, quite innocent of rails. This incident ended in a general crumpling up of the train, and a shock from which my nervous system was slow to recover. I was languidly curious afterwards to know how it all happened, and, strange as it may seem, I have never derived one grain of consolation from hearing that the special Indian Mail train had on this occasion been entirely overlooked by the railway officials, who, after the passage of the ordinary night mail from Calais to Paris, had leisurely taken up the rails over which I was to travel, and omitted to put them down again. I hope this does not often happen on a Friday night. For myself I now, before leaving Calais, absorb a few sulphonal tabloids, so that I may always be in a position to go one better than the other sleepers in case of a similar accident occurring.

No, the journey to Brindisi is not without its dangers and disappointments. I mind me of one man whose train was maliciously cut in twain by a designing Italian railway porter, and who skipped off gaily on his road with the Indian Mail, leaving all the bags for Australia reposing at a station. These bags subsequently found their way on to the line for Naples, and when in the perilous Abruzzi, fell foul of many bullock waggons, resulting, I was told, in a scene of

carnage (and baggage) which could only be adequately described by the unfortunate officer who was not there.

Then, not long ago, one dear young gentleman was locked into his compartment, which could by no manner of means be induced to open. It thus came to pass that this dignified official had to be extracted at intervals through the window like a winkle from his shell. He has not been over the road since, I understand, but the memory of this performance still haunts the Adriatic.

Attached to the Indian Mail train is a French Travelling Post Office, which proceeds as far as Modane. The travelling sorters are a shrewd set, and one of them is endowed with some power of mimicry. Nothing is more agreeable to me during the last hour on French territory than to invite this cheery fellow into my compartment and hear him expatiate on the various Indian Mail officers with whom he is brought in contact; and so at Brindisi they are all known and have their nicknames: the regulars and the substitutes. But wild horses should not tear these names from me.

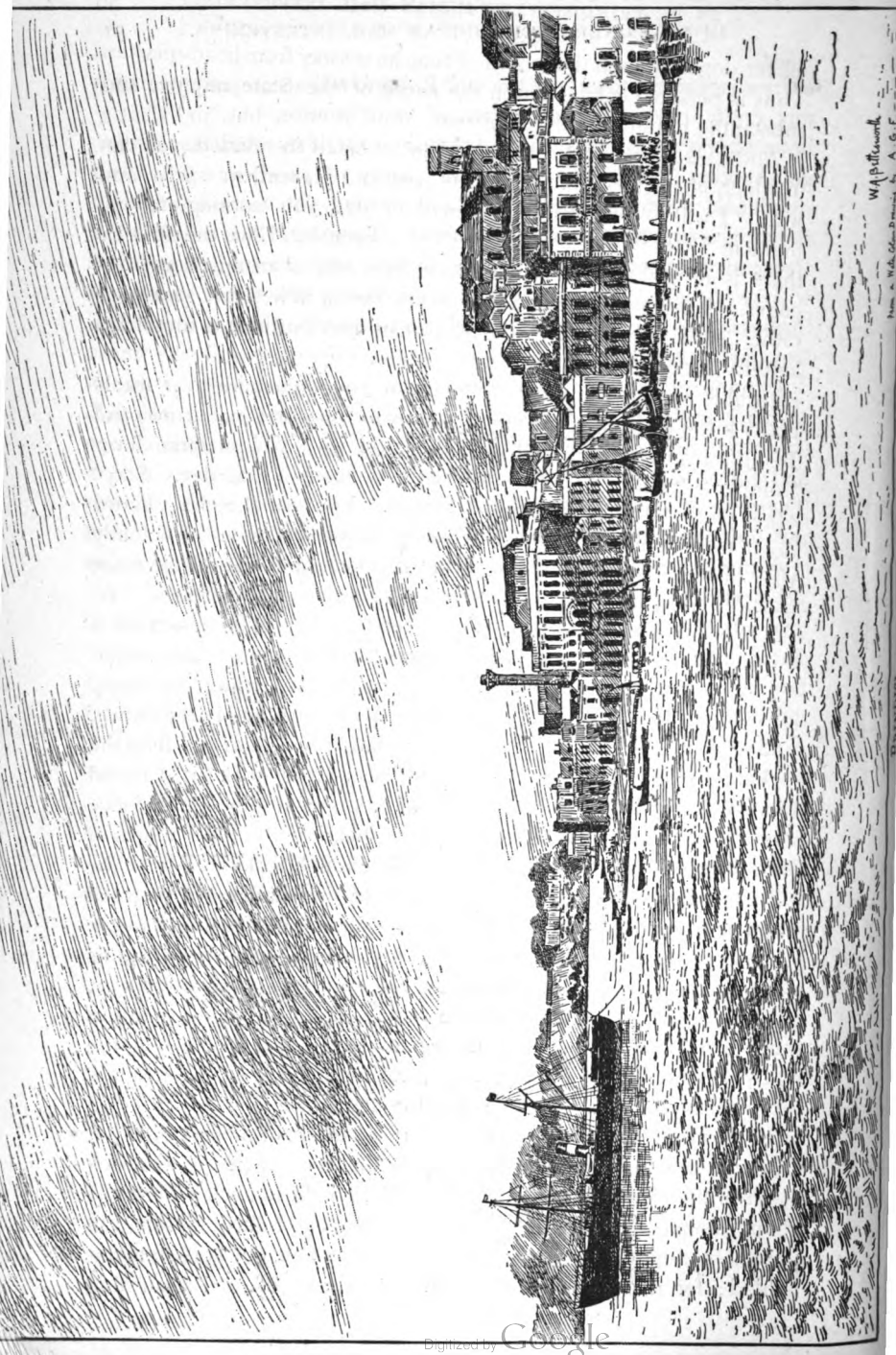
It is impossible to exaggerate the loneliness of the journey from Calais to Brindisi by special train. The distance is nearly 1400 miles, and it frequently happens that, except in giving a receipt for the French bags at Modane and exchanging a growl with the Postmaster of Turin—who persists in spite of all protest in rousing one from slumber in the middle of the night in order to enquire how many bags the train contains—the whole distance is traversed in a funereal silence lasting two solid days and nights. The regular officers who spend their lives in this manner no doubt find means of varying the monotony, or else use becomes second nature; but to some of the substitutes, doing the journey occasionally only, it must occur that while the journey lasts there are few harder ways of earning a livelihood.

But then there is the compensating advantage of the rest and change to be obtained at that pestiferous little seaport on the Adriatic which exists merely to embark and disembark mails and passengers passing between Europe and the East. If you are very lucky you may, after despatching your steamer in the small hours of Monday morning, have five or even six days to yourself before the return mail is in. This time can be utilised in various ways. You can stay in bed all day if you like and defy the mosquitoes through your net; or you can (in the summer) go for a sail in a boat placed at your disposal by the ever ready and courteous Robert Mellor of the P. & O. Company—"Signor Roberto," as he is simply called

everywhere in the town—or the said Roberto will accompany you and mix crafty beverages destructive of your interior, but, ah! what a boon after a swim round the lighthouse! Or, if so minded, you can go shooting. Just now there are plenty of excellent snipe and woodcock, affording good sport and costing you nothing, for no shooting is preserved away down there! Then Mr. Low, the P. & O. Company's agent, and his hospitable wife and charming daughters will be delighted to see you, and the young ladies will seek your impressions of Brindisi and compel you to inscribe them in an album kept for the purpose.

If none of these entertainments suit you then take your meals regularly at the Hôtel International (one of the worst in Europe) and sit outside the hotel afterwards. That will give you malarial fever and fully occupy your spare moments for many a long day. Stay! There is, of course, yet another refuge. You can sketch! Fancy my forgetting that! Why, this hasty scrawl of mine is actually "written round" a sketch of Brindisi, which it is true, I have not yet seen, but which I am credibly informed is a masterpiece. At any rate, I know the artist. This sketch, in my opinion—mind, I have only *heard* of it at present—was the first step towards undermining a fine constitution. A long course of sitting on damp house-tops and lurking in still damper boats to get a good perspective, produced the rheumatico-nervous dilapidation which, after filling the pockets of the doctors at Aix-les-bains, has sent my poor artist friend on a voyage to Egypt in search of health. By a strange coincidence his ship, even as I write these lines, is nearing the fatal shores of Brundisium, where, should he be rash enough to land, I hope he will be dissuaded from making any further dangerous pictorial attempts to increase the already large circulation of this magazine.

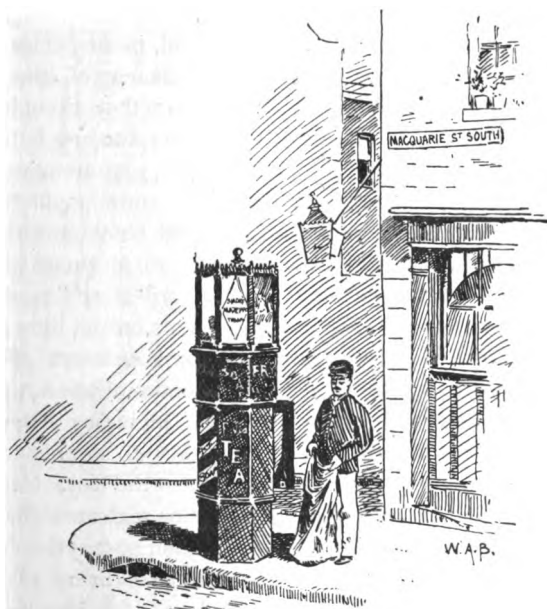
I have by no means exhausted my list of the sharp thorns awaiting those who, with the aid of *Ollendorff's Italian Grammar*, go forth to tempt Fortune with the Indian Mail. It arrives—and in these days of fast steamers by no means rarely—that on reaching the end of the outward journey, jaded, travel-stained, and ill-tempered, the pleasant news awaits one that the homeward ship is "expected in to-morrow!" Only last month, one of the mail officers, who left Dover as usual on a Friday morning for Calais and Brindisi, was back again in the cheerless hall of the Lord Warden the following Thursday about dinner-time, having covered nearly 3,000 miles of ground in less than seven days. This in itself is bad enough, but worse remains behind: for a considerable portion of the pay of an Indian Mail



officer depends upon the length of time he is away from head-quarters. Thus is personal exhaustion in the cause of the State requited by a substantial diminution of *per diems*.

About six years ago I contributed an article to the *National Review* in which the Indian Mail Service, past and present, was fully dealt with. I will not insult the readers of *St. Martin's* by assuming for a moment that they have forgotten this article. This being thus, there is no necessity for me to spread any official details upon these pages. I simply appear in the character of the Greek chorus, or rather, perhaps, in that of the showman who introduces the magic-lantern slides, and whose introduction is naturally all the more enjoyable when, as in my case, he has not seen the slides. I do not really know what part of Brindisi has been sketched by my friend F. Being a man of much classical erudition, he has probably chosen Pompey's Pillar. Yes, Pompey has a pillar at Brindisi, as in most other places south of Tuscany; and this pillar marks, as they mostly do, a termination of our old friend the Appian Way. Let me hope that the Way in which he has dealt with the subject is, in the fullest sense, a 'appy un !

I. M. O.



AN ADVERTISING PILLAR BOX, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

(From a Photo. by G. Boseley.)



## *The Postmaster-General on the Post Office.*



N the first November last, the Right Hon. Arnold Morley, M.P., visited the offices of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of being presented with an address from that body. He was received by a guard of honour, consisting of mail porters and letter carriers, who were accompanied by inspectors Clark, Field, and Webster, and twenty-five telegraph messengers—part of the local cadet corps—in charge of inspectors Appleby and Mawditt. The distinguished visitor (with whom was Mr. Charles Morley) was received by Mr. R. C. Tombs, Postmaster and Surveyor of Bristol, and was introduced by Mr. Charles Townsend, M.P., to the President of the Chamber.

The President said that Mr. Morley had, in his office of great responsibility, won a record in the guidance of the gigantic organisation under his administration, when they thought of the manipulation last year of no fewer than 1,811,800,000 letters, while the total of postal communications during the year amounted to the startling figures equalling 74 per head of the entire population of the United Kingdom, eighteen millions of postal communications were "returned" through the dead letter office, and forty-one millions of money passed through the post in postal orders and postal notes. Without trespassing more than a few moments on the time available, he would briefly refer to a few of the improvements effected by Mr. Arnold Morley. (a) Telegraphic communication with about twenty of our lighthouses and lightships, including extensions to Lundy Island in the British Channel, and also to seventy-four coast-guard stations; nineteen more lighthouses that the Royal Commission recommended the provision of communication with were now in hand. (b) Type-written circulars allowed. (c) Parcel post system extended to numerous foreign countries. (d) Special delivery of letters in advance of the ordinary round of postmen. (e) Maximum sums deposited in savings bank raised from £30 to £50. (f) Maximum



of stock investments raised from £200 to £500 as the highest possible amount held. (g) Use of private post-cards with half-penny adhesive stamps. (h) Allowance of open envelopes for book-post communications. (i) Midnight mail from London to Bristol. (j) Midnight mail to and from South Wales.

The Postmaster-General said that it was with feelings of pleasure and gratification, which were enhanced by the kindly reference in the address to his father who was for many years member for that city, that he came there that day. The president in his speech had referred to several questions connected with postal reform. With the exception of one, on which he would speak, he did not propose then to occupy their time. He would not touch upon the thorny question of the place of departure and arrival of *American Mails*, as he was afraid that on that question various Chambers of Commerce of the country would hold very different views. That of Bristol would think that that city, when her docks were completed, was the best place, while the Cork Chamber of Commerce would not agree to such a resolution, and would say that Queenstown was the best point. Other Chambers of Commerce in various parts of the country would also assert that their particular locality was the most suitable and advantageous. Regarding the matter of *Imperial Penny Postage*, the proposal was that they should convey for a penny a letter to any part of the British Empire. That question had occupied a very great deal of his attention and thought. The point was not so much that of losing £100,000 a year, but the proposal put forward was really whether they should have a halfpenny postage to the colonies. When they sent a letter, say, from Bristol to London they paid a penny, and the recipient of the letter paid a penny if he replied. But if they sent a letter to the colonies a penny would be paid for it, but the penny paid for a return letter would go to the colonial government. Therefore, for the penny it was proposed to charge they would have to deal with the two letters, and he thought he was justified in saying that the proposal, as put forward, meant that they should institute a penny postage to the colonies, and put them in a far better position, although they lived thousands of miles away, than those who were at home. He wanted them, therefore, as representing the trade and commerce of that city, to think over the arguments before they made up their minds that it was a proposal which ought to be adopted in the interests of the commercial and social elements of the country. The Post Office, he thought, had its fair share of criticism, and often of abuse. He, perhaps, could

understand the feelings of a man who was smarting from the delay in the delivery of a letter, and attributing the blame of that delay or miscarriage to the Postmaster General. He would tell them frankly that, as far as criticism was concerned, if it was honest and fair criticism, he did not mind it—in fact, he welcomed it, and he had often useful and practical suggestions sent to him; but to abuse he paid no attention, and he either attributed it to ignorance or sometimes he thought it arose from jealousy of the magnificent success which had attended the Post Office of the country. There was one thing he should like to say a word about, and that was to remove a false impression which some people had. Some candid critics of the Post Office had alleged that the reason why they could not see some reforms realised was due to the *obstinacy of the permanent Post Office officials*. He had had two years' experience of the Post Office—two years of hard work he might say—and he did not hesitate to say that he did not think there was an atom of foundation for that charge. Multitudes of proposals, many of which were old, some of which were new, came before them, and in dealing with any one of those proposals he had not detected any other desire than to maintain the efficiency of the Post Office at the highest, and to adapt the Post Office to the varying needs of the changing civilisation under which they lived. He might go further, and say that if the Department with which he was connected had adopted one-hundredth part—and he considered that a very low estimate—of the suggestions which came pouring in to them for reforms and alterations, he did not hesitate to say that they would have proved that they were not worthy of the confidence which he believed the public reposed in them, and as a great public body they should cease to enjoy the reputation that the Post Office of this country provided a service which, in his opinion, was far superior to any other country in the world. He had referred to that question because he thought it was right and due in the interest of the Post Office permanent officials that he should state publicly what he had, and he cordially accepted on their behalf, and on his own, the kindly reference which the president had made to the reforms which had been carried out during the last two years in connection with his Department. The president had mentioned one reform which was especially interesting to Bristol—the reform of a *later despatch of mails from London*, which would remedy what undoubtedly was a disadvantage under which Bristol had laboured as compared with some of the large cities of the North of England. The delay of that was not due to the

obstinacy of the permanent officials of the Post Office. The *great railway* which had a main line connection between Bristol and London was somewhat *behind the times*, and did not follow suit with the other competing lines which ran from London to the North, and he was glad of that opportunity of saying that in these matters they were at the mercy of the railway companies, and reforms were delayed and sometimes indefinitely postponed—sometimes postponed for years—from the difficulty of getting what he ventured to think they endeavoured to get—cordial co-operation on reasonable terms from those great corporations upon which Parliament had conferred monopolies and privileges of very great value. He was not going to express any definite opinion upon the subject, but he was very much inclined to think that Parliament, when it gave the monopolies to railway companies for carrying on the traffic of the country, should have imposed that at least Her Majesty's mails should be carried at a reasonable rate, and he did not think they would have done wrong in imposing upon the companies the duty of carrying the mails for nothing. He would tell them a fact which he thought would startle them—it certainly startled him when he first knew it—and it was the increasing difficulty with which they had to contend. They had to pay more for the *carriage of mails* over the country at the present time—in these days of railway and steamboat development they had to pay more for the carriage per letter than they had in the coaching days of the early part of the century. He was reading, while coming down in the train, an interesting pamphlet written by Sir Rowland Hill, who, as they knew, carried the penny postage reform of this country. He in that book argued the question out, and went into the matter very critically, as to the expense of the carriage of mails through the country. At the present time they estimated that the carriage of mails came approximately to  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for every postal packet which was carried through, while it was estimated in the pamphlet to which he alluded that at the time at which it was written the carriage of letters cost only a fraction of a farthing. Although he did not accept the whole of the arguments in the work he had alluded to, he had no reason to doubt the soundness of the figures on which the writer based his calculation. Thus they formerly had to pay for the carriage of a letter from one point to the other only a fraction of the amount which they had at the present time to pay for corresponding articles under the new system of railway management. He did not confine himself merely to the statement of Sir Rowland Hill, but the other day he came across an extract from the first report of the

General Post Office to the House of Commons, in the year 1854, by Lord Canning, who was the first Postmaster-General. Lord Canning dealt with that question then, in the early days of railway development, and he dealt with the cost of the expense for the conveyance of the mails by railways as compared with that of coaches. In 1844—ten years before he spoke—the Post Office received from the coach proprietors in Lancashire £200 for the privilege of carrying the mails, while at the present time the same service was performed by the railways at a cost of £12,000. The coaches secured certain advantages through carrying the mails, and were allowed to wear the Royal arms, and consequently many people preferred to travel by these, believing they had greater security. He thought Lord Canning strongly bore out the statement he (the speaker) had made, that the cost of carrying the mails under the present system was far higher than under the old coaching system of the early part of the century. He merely mentioned that subject to convince them of the difficulties they had to meet in the heavy charges which they had to pay, not only for the existing service, but for every new service when required at the hands of the railway companies. The president had mentioned the acceleration of letters which he was glad to have been able to arrange for between South Wales and Bristol, and he (the speaker) thought that the later despatch from London would be a distinct advantage to the commercial community of that great city, and he hoped it would satisfy them as a Council that they were not ignorant of the requirements of the West of England. The president had mentioned a great number of postal reforms which that Chamber and other Chambers were anxious to obtain. He mentioned one on which perhaps he might say a few words. They knew that *free re-direction* was sanctioned some three years ago; but it was confined to letters, and did not apply to circulars, post-cards, newspapers, or any other postal packets. He had the honour to announce to them that on the 1st of January next *free re-direction* would be allowed *on all postal articles except parcels*. He did not think he should be quite honest if he did not state his own position about the matter. There were some so-called postal reforms which cost too much, which imposed too heavy burdens upon the Department, and the burden was in excess and entirely out of proportion to the advantage which the public derived from them. In his opinion free re-direction was one of these reforms. He would take the case of a member of that Chamber who was away from Bristol, and there were, let them say, twelve letters to be sent to him. Under the old system these

twelve letters were put into a large envelope and addressed and charged according to weight. Under the new system the servant at the house would have to strike out the address from each of the twelve letters and insert the correct one, and though, no doubt, the recipient of the letters saved  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 3d. postage, his servant had to address all those twelve letters, instead of only one, under the old system. The Post Office lost  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 3d., which he did not think much about; but there was also imposed upon the Post Office the duty of dealing with twelve badly-addressed envelopes instead of one plainly addressed, and that was the reason why he said that the *principle of free re-direction*, as it had been introduced and existed, *was a burden*—a too heavy burden upon the Post Office for the advantage which it conferred upon the public. If they asked him why he was going to extend the principle to circulars and postcards, he could only say that, as the result of experience during the last few years, while the principle had been in operation it had imposed such enormous burdens upon the returned letter department that they had come to the conclusion, after very careful consideration, that with certain alterations which would be inaugurated there would be a great relief in the work which the Post Office had performed, and that, instead of adding to the expenses of the Department, it would substantially and materially lessen them. Therefore, under those circumstances, he had no hesitation in sanctioning the improvement. As he had said, in connection with that change it had been found possible to *relieve the Post Office* of a vast amount of labour unprofitable to the Department, and not, it was thought, of any considerable advantage to the public. Millions of circulars and advertisements and other packets, prepaid a halfpenny only, reached the Returned Letter Office every year. Hitherto it had been the practice to return most of these free of cost to the senders, although the original postage of a halfpenny afforded no margin for such service. The packets, however, were, generally speaking, of little or no value to the senders, while their treatment in the Returned Letter Office and delivery to the sender were very costly to the Department. It was intended after the first January to return only those packets, presumably of some importance, which came under certain well-defined categories, and all packets whose senders expressed on the outside a desire to get them back on payment of a second postage: all other packets prepaid a halfpenny only being disposed of at the office of delivery. That change would afford great relief to the work of the Post Office in several ways, and would result in a saving of

expense, which, in connection with other economies, enabled it to confer the boon of free direction without placing any additional burden on the taxpayers. Another regulation would come into force at the same time which would be in the interest of the public. The *transmission of paper money*, negotiable credit notes, and uncanceled postage stamps, except when affixed to covers sent for purpose of reply, would henceforth only be undertaken *by letter post*. In regard to other matters, he could promise them that he should consider them in the spirit of the remarks he had made to them and which had been recognised in the address. He heartily thanked them for that address, which he looked upon as appreciative of the work of the Department, and once again expressed the pleasure it had given him to meet the members of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce on that occasion.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Morley, which was proposed by Mr. Tombs.



CATCHING THE POST.

## *The Benevolent Society.*

I.—“THE QUESTION ITSELF.”—BY A. BELCHER.

**I**N the October issue of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* Mr. Mantell discusses, under the title “The Other Side of the Question,” Mr. Bennett’s account of the Benevolent Society’s meeting at Liverpool. Mr. Bennett’s article was not wholly in the lighter vein to which he has accustomed us, and no doubt the vigour with which he denounced certain proceedings at Liverpool justified Mr. Mantell in putting before the readers of the magazine his conception of the other side of the question. In doing this Mr. Mantell has naturally dealt more or less with what I have ventured to call the question itself, and it is upon this contribution of Mr. Mantell’s to the Reserve Fund controversy that I desire to make one or two observations. In doing this I shall endeavour to confine myself to “the cold atmosphere of fact” which Mr. Mantell so strangely thinks the “Reservists” carefully shun.

Mr. Mantell refers to what may be termed the “Princess Alice” argument. He contemplates with a light heart a heavy call in one week in respect of, say, 40 or 50 deaths, the result of some dire disaster, and, rising to the “high region of impression,” expresses himself as confident, “without the slightest fear of contradiction,” that the members would in such a case be ready “to pay double, aye, and treble, if the necessities of the case demanded it.” Unfortunately for Mr. Mantell’s generous confidence, it is a fact of the “cold atmosphere” sort, an every-day experience with local secretaries, that when a call is made in respect of only five or six deaths, a number of members decline to respond to the call, and sever their connection with the Society! Another fact to be got out of this “cold atmosphere” is one shown in the last year’s balance sheet, viz., that the average age of the surviving members of the Society is steadily increasing year by year, and the logical inference is that the number of deaths must increase also. This increase may be slight during the next ten years, but it must necessarily become very marked (I refer more especially to the first class) when the average age of the members is over 50,

and the surviving members will then have to face the alternative of steadily increasing heavy calls, or retirement into the second class (or from the Society) with the consequent sacrifice of the considerable sums they will then have paid.

Mr. Mantell points to the arrangement by which members in distressed circumstances are relieved, by a vote of the annual meeting, from the payment of contributions, and asks where is the insurance society, the members of which who are better off pay the premium of their less fortunate brethren? But the members of the Benevolent Society do *not* pay the premiums of their distressed brethren who are relieved from further payments; such premiums are not paid at all, and the loss falls upon the nominees! Mr. Mantell, having been led into making the statement that "the local members of our Society do pay these levies," asks: "would it be a misnomer to call this action benevolent." If it were a "cold" fact it would not, but an enquiry of the Central Secretary would show him that the statement he has made belongs, unfortunately, to the "high region of impressions" of which he thinks the Reservists only are enamoured. I can assure Mr. Mantell that it is an appreciation of these, and other, facts which has led some of us to ask whether we ought not to exercise a little benevolence by foregoing somewhat of our present advantage in order to secure the interests of the general body of members in the distant (or near) future. That is the sum and substance of the agitation for a Reserve Fund. An insurance of £150 in the Scottish Provident Institution, at the present average age of our first class members (41—42) would cost £4 5s. per annum. We stand practically insured for that amount at about £1 14s. What does this mean but that in some form or other the younger members must pay the difference bye-and-bye—either in the shape of enhanced premiums, or in the loss of the payments already made by cancelling their membership. Would it not be truer wisdom, as well as truer benevolence, to forego a part of our present swollen advantage by contenting ourselves with a reasonable amount of benefit—say £100, and place the balance in reserve against future contingencies? Then when the day of excessive calls is reached we can fix the number of deaths for which each member shall be liable during the year, and meet the claims in respect of the deaths over and above the number so fixed from the accumulated funds. This would involve some sacrifice on the part of the older members of the Society, but I contend that they would have no reasonable ground for complaint. Regarding the past as a year to year insurance, they have had ample security for the



money they have paid, and if in the future they can secure for their representatives £100 for such payments as they may be required to make, they will effect the insurance at a much lower rate than they could elsewhere.

I am not one of those who would accuse Mr. Mantell, and those who think with him, of either "ignorance" or "selfishness." On the contrary, I willingly concede that he is as keenly interested in the Society as those from whom he differs, but I think he and his friends are mistaken; that they are blinded by the glamour of the past success to the possible evils involved in a too-close adherence to the original scheme of its founder. It would be strange if the experience of nearly twenty years had not developed some weaknesses in an otherwise excellent scheme. That those weaknesses have been exaggerated by some fearful souls I do not for a moment deny. All the more is it necessary that men of Mr. Mantell's stamp—loyal to the Society and keenly interested in its welfare—should exercise their ability in reducing these alleged weaknesses to their due proportion, and in aiding the level-headed men amongst us in adopting such precautionary measures as will make the Society strong when the enemy is at the gate.

## II.—By R. W. J.

As one of the oldest members of this Society, who has been instrumental in inducing many colleagues to join its ranks, I observe, with regret, that the Reserve Fund proposal has given rise to strong language, if not to mutual recrimination. If I do not sympathise with a reserve fund, it is not because I do not wish for the stability of the Society, but because I believe such a fund to be *ultra vires* of its constitution. Where there is a distinct and defined *liability*, a reserve fund is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary. But we have no such liability, and never can have, unless the constitution of the Society should be radically changed, and changed for the worse, as I think. Our only liability is the result of the levy at a particular moment when a death occurs. The members may fix, or rather have fixed, the limit beyond which payment of such result shall not be made, and although I think this is expedient, I greatly doubt if it is legal. But they can never fix the limit *below* which the payment may not fall, and this it is which determines the point that the Society has no *liability* in the ordinary acceptance of the term. It is the central principle of the Society that every transaction shall be complete in itself, and that there shall be no fund to be recklessly invested,

or made off with by defaulting officials. I have frequently pointed this out to members and intending members, and I have heard the late Sir Arthur Blackwood do the same on at least one occasion. Undoubtedly there are some—perhaps a good many—members of the Society who believe that it is an *Insurance Fund*; but if they were to reflect for one moment, they would see how unsubstantial are the grounds for such an impression. It is fortunate for them that it is *not* an insurance fund, because, if it were, they might well be alarmed for its stability, in view of the fact that their annual payments could not possibly insure the amounts produced by the levies, so far. The Society is emphatically a benevolent one, and to rob it of this feature would be to destroy one of the links—perhaps the only one—which bind the different grades of the Service together.

Whether the Reserve Fund movement is dropped, or not, it may be hoped that there will be no further recrimination on the subject; because it is beyond doubt that both sides are sincerely anxious for the continued success of a most valuable institution, although one side is undoubtedly mistaken. What the Society needs, above all things, is a period of rest from the “devilish ingenuity” of its would-be reformers. If the annual meeting and dinner—I beg pardon, banquet—could be intermitted for a year or two, much good would result. These events cost the members a good deal of money one way and another, and they only tend to create an inflated notion of what is, after all, but an organised effort to prevent the hat being sent round. If one half the ingenuity displayed in attempts to “reform” the Society were put forth in efforts to increase its membership, there would be no fear of its stability, and no need of a reserve fund.

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### *Mr. Bennett and the Postmen's Federation.*

Mr. Edward Bennett writes as follows:—

I have an apology to make regarding my account of the Liverpool meeting, and it is to the Postmen's Federation. The sentence I wrote ending with the words “I venture to tell the Postmen's Federation that no agitation ever won anything by methods such as its representatives adopted in Liverpool,” is, I admit, a very unfortunate one. It is calculated to leave with my readers the

impression that the Postmen's Federation sent their own representatives to the meeting, and that these representatives acted under the authority of the Federation. The word "representatives" should of course have been "members," and I acquit the Executive of the Federation of any complicity with the conduct of certain members of their body who attended the meeting, who wore the Federation Badge, and who acted in the manner I have attempted to describe. I am very glad to hear from the Executive of the Federation that they disapprove of the behaviour at our meeting as much as I do.



BOLTED.

## *In Defence of Red Tape.*

**D**AWSON and I are very good friends. For myself, I honestly respect Dawson, because he is really a capable fellow. He is a perfect shark for hard work, and as he is sterlingly if not conspicuously honest, and a model in the way of not officially backbiting, I consider that it reflects credit on my judgment to sincerely respect him. Amongst other things he is an authority on red tape, and a believer in it. Not that this has always been the case. "Pooh," he remarked on one occasion, "no play for individual genius, and a mere hampering of any business worthy of the name. And the thing has a bad sound, 'red tape!' why, the words suggest all that is meaningless and unintelligent in the mass of form within which lies the kernel of work, real crystallized endeavour." Thus Dawson in his loftiest vein. But now that his responsibilities have grown, he has found that however transcendent a genius he himself may be, he cannot, as a general rule, depend on talent in others of a higher range than from ordinary to dull; so he accommodates himself to what he does not like, but cannot do without. It is because red tape has so few friends, and yet because a brainy man like Dawson cannot do without it, that I venture to take up the cudgels in its defence.

I deny that the use of red tape hampers work. It may appear to do so, but that appearance is happily paid for in the assurance that the work has been done. It is only rule of thumb that is unintelligent. Well do I know the gentleman, who, dipping his pen in gall, sits down to scarify the Post Office for its outrageous display of red tape; he may be described as a person of middle age, with a preponderating sense of his own importance and strength of will, and with a more or less receding chin. This person, named Boke, I am at this moment aware, has just heard from England (please remember that this is written in New Zealand), that two letters which he posted on the same day have been received a week apart. "What wretched neglect! some more of their paltry red tape, I suppose." He usually has a good supply of sarcastic adjectives. He little knows, and would not care to know, that a gentleman with

wrinkles on his brow and official brass enough to keep an Orient liner waiting for one letter if he could, deliberately sat down to cut off as many minutes as he decently could from the lives of some hundreds of perspiring mail-clerks in order to add them to the time-table of the mail-service from Slucumville where the letters were posted. It matters nothing to Boke that an officer with the eye of a lynx and absolutely wanting in bowels of compassion, scans that time-table almost every day with the fixed purpose of making the Slucumville mail fit in more dexterously, if it be in any manner possible, with the tables of the Orient and P. and O. liners, and that further, if he finds any hiatus, of asking the Postmaster at Slucumville what he means by taking those minutes back from the time-table to add them again to the inconsiderable life of his particular mail-clerk. No, Boke will be given all this information in quite as convincing a form in reply to his epistle to the Postmaster-General, and will straightway sit down and write a long letter to the *Morning Post* and state his case exactly as if the Postmaster-General had not written him a single word.

Or a lady rings up the Postmaster of Spelkin's Flat on the telephone and sweetly asks that he will be so kind as to re-address her brother's letters to Flankville. To which the Postmaster politely replies that he would be happy to oblige her but that the regulations forbid him to comply with her request. For the officer, to whose vision the property in a post letter looms as large and tangible as if it were an elephant, knows that even fair young creatures may in the exuberance of their affection or their wit make mistakes about their brothers' letters, and that the same brothers have a knack of showing very little sympathy for those mistakes, more especially when the correction thereof involves the pleasure of a sneer at the red tape "which the officers of the post office appear only to forget when it may prove of some slight use to them." So he sticks to his red tape and sleeps the more easily for it.

Or, again, a gentleman writes from Podgertown to say that the mails are delayed in their transmission from Frump's Gully, only fifteen miles off. He omits to mention the fact that the places are divided by a mountain range eight thousand feet high. He says it took him a whole week to get a reply to a letter he sent to Frump's Gully. It is of no use to tell him that by any other than the present arrangement, mails for London and Brussels (far more important places, though not quite so large as their prototypes) would be seriously delayed. It is a crime, too, against his personal dignity

that instead of answering his complaint out of hand and letting him have peace of mind within twenty-four hours, red tape has spent a whole week in ascertaining the rights of the case and has deferred answering him by so long. His next complaint will be just as bitterly positive.

Women are famously illogical, and this is a good opportunity of saying so. A woman who can keep half a dozen children clean, decent, well-fed, and comfortably full of the current 'ologies, on a Civil Service salary of two hundred and thirty pounds a year, is evidently the possessor of an intellect of a very high order. Yet this same woman will rush up to a post office counter and blast the clerk there with the lightning of her eye simply because she wishes to return quickly to Mrs. Wagler, who is minding the *pram* on the pavement outside. Certainly a sea-captain wants to give notice of sailing and a young man is hoping desperately to get his telegram off and to catch his train. The lady herself has only an order for letters from Mrs. Wagler. That's nothing! "To treat a lady so: depend upon it, my dear, that young man wants a lesson in manners," says Mrs. Wagler. And the composite letter which some of us know so well is the upshot. After all, the young man has simply clung tightly to his red tape and so saved himself from more serious disaster.

The fact is that in every business—official or otherwise—we must have red tape. Our fault will be in not having it tied tightly enough. Ten to one, where the business is bungled, it has slipped out of the tape. And how precious a thing is red tape to those who need it the most! Which man is he who is always called for when the superiors in the office have a rush of work? They, poor wretches, perhaps had circumstances against them, and had no chance to be methodical until too late, until they were too old to learn. Perhaps, more fortunate, having been able like Dawson to do other things well, they never suspected the paltry need for decent routine and order. But certain it is that when they get into a fix they are glad to send for Dawson to help them through, now that he has learned red tape, or for some other man who throughout has known the value of it and means to hold on to the faith that is in him. Facility in the use of red tape is in truth a far more difficult thing to acquire than most people think. Except to an exact thinker, it requires immense practice to do the same thing always in the same way, and to use sufficient or appropriate means in doing it; and in this we see the advantage of having grown up with one's business. The tape may be of a bad sort, but at least one has some readiness in

handling it. Whereas an officer inducted into an office at the top hardly ever acquires the necessary dexterity to put him beyond the need of somebody else's help in matters of routine, to handle the tape gracefully as it were, be he ever so willing.

It is not, I think, outside the scope of this article to remark that possibly we should hear less of the vices of red tape and more of its virtues if it were more strictly kept new. I have seen and handled plenty of the rotten sort, tape which should have been put behind the fire years ago. It is impossible to read through any book of rules without meeting some guide of conduct which is only respectable from its antiquity, the plain inference being that rule-books are not revised with sufficient frequency. I look forward to a golden age of officialdom when weekly notices shall be issued somewhat in the following terms: "Oh yes! Oh yes! Just published! Rules for the guidance of the officers of the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the week ending the 14th day of January, Nineteen Hundred and ———. These rules are a rescript of all that is necessary to avoid being fined in any sum larger than two-pence, and have absolutely received official sanction as irreversible for the whole week. Price eighteen-pence." Why, the thing will be cheap and will have an enormous sale, given of course that the index is as clear as it is certain to be copious. And think what a comfort it will be to some of the superior officers of our respected department in ———. It does not matter so much about the underlings: they know already that they have either to do their work properly or else be fined, and so they go more or less cheerily forward. But the poor heads who have no such incentives to virtuous conduct, and yet who are expected to practise it! Can mortals be in more pitiful case? How they bear it is a marvel to one not of them.

F. V. WATERS.

Wellington, N.Z.

## Telegraphs in Persia.



AN interesting paper\* on this subject was recently read at a meeting of the Society of Arts by Lieut.-Col. Henry L. Wells, R.E., who has, since 1881, directed the construction of the lines of the Indo-European Telegraph Company.

The company's route from London viâ Lowestoft, Emden, Berlin, Warsaw, Odessa, Kertch, Sukumkaleh and Tiflis, enters Persia at the passage of the River Araxes, which forms the frontier between that country and Russia. The company's line, consisting of three wires, one for the use of the Persian government, is well constructed and maintained. Since 1881 the company's line across Persia has gradually been reconstructed and improved, section by section. The insulation has been much ameliorated, all the wires being now carried on porcelain insulators, supported on malleable iron brackets, which are bolted round the Siemens standards.

The line, which is divided into four sections, traverses throughout a very elevated plateau, the whole surface of the country at Zenjan, for example, having an elevation varying from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above the sea, but in the whole length of 440 miles between Djulfa on the Araxes, and Teheran, the altitude of the country passed over does not vary more than 3,000 feet. This fact, and the protection afforded by the mountain chains, to which the line runs parallel, greatly promote the immunity of the line from interruptions.

At Teheran the company's administration terminates, and that of the Government commences. About 25 members of the joint staff are stationed here.

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\* Reported in full in *Electricity*.



The line (675 miles) thence to Bushire is divided into four sub-sections, and is maintained for the Persian Government by the European Administration. The first section (247 miles), with an inspector at Soh, runs south, skirting the desert from Teheran to Kom and Kashan, and passes through villages formerly liable to be pillaged by Turcomans. Attaining an altitude of 3,200 feet at Kashan, the line rises to 5,500 feet in 32 miles to the summit of the Kohrud Pass (8,750 feet). In this desolate mountain region, intersected by rockbound ravines through which rush sudden tempests laden with snow, it is no easy task in winter to keep the telegraphs free from interruptions, and years of experience were required to discover the best route and the means of overcoming the natural difficulties. At the top of the pass the snowfall is so great that the standards have to be only 60 yards apart. There is no human habitation for 20 miles from the summit to the inspector's headquarters at Soh.

On the second section, which extends 195 miles from Ispahan to Meshed-i-Moorgab, robbers interfere with the inspector and his working parties. Forty miles before reaching Shiraz the wires pass within two miles of the ruins of Persepolis, the splendid series of palaces of the ancient Persian kings, from which their mandates were carried by swift couriers (an early postal service, in fact), as far as the Indus and the Nile.

When a line to link Jask to the Persian section by land again comes to be considered, it is probable that a very suitable way will be found along the southern slopes of the great mountains which form the boundary of the Persian plateau in the direction of Kazerun and Bunder Abbas. The route would be free from snow, and in close proximity to the gulf, and therefore to British influence. From Kazerun to Behbaham and thence to Ahwaz and Bagdad would be the best route for a line to join up with the Mediterranean cables via the Euphrates valley. The Euphrates valley and Southern Persia is, in Col. Wells' opinion, the best route for another line of telegraphic communication with India.

The third sub-section extends from Meshad-i-Moorgab to Mian-Kotul, a distance of 131 miles. On the portion south of Shiraz the heaviest snowfall is experienced, the damp rainclouds from the gulf discharging themselves in winter in the elevated country.

The fourth sub-section extends from Mian-Kotul to the sea, and is the only one which is below the winter snow line, distance 102 miles.

At Reshire the work is taken up by the Persian Gulf cables.

The telegraph lines in Persia are shown in the following table :—

Lines.	Length in English miles.	Date of com- pletion.
1. Teheran to Bushire (English Government line of three wires ; one wire is reserved for Persian traffic) ... ..	675	1864
2. Teheran to Khanegin (constructed by English Government ; handed over to Persian Government, 1870) ... ..	440	1864
3. Teheran to summer palaces of H. I. M. the Shah ... ..	18	1865-67
4. Kasvin to Resht... ..	105	1869
5. Teheran to Djulfa (Russian frontier) ; constructed by Siemens ; three wires, one reserved for Persian traffic ... ..	415	1870
6. Teheran to Shahrud and Astrabad ... ..	314	1870
7. Merend to Khoi... ..	35	1872
8. Hamadan to Dowletabad, Burujird, Sultanabad ... ..	120	1874
Total length of lines ...	2,122	...

With regard to the lines of the Persian Government it appears that the only ones that are reliable and efficient are those maintained by the European administration, viz., those from the Russian frontier to Teheran, that from Teheran to Bushire, and from Teheran to Meshad. His Excellency the Mukhber-ed-Dowleh, K.C.I.E., the Persian minister for telegraphs, is an able man, but his department has to contend with great difficulties in the want of education, of public spirit and discipline, of proper pay and promotion, and of a proper system of inspection. The result is to be seen in lines of wooden poles, usually of unseasoned poplar, which soon rot, and are peculiarly liable to destruction by white ants ; lines destitute of struts and often having wire stays placed within a few inches of a practically uninsulated circuit ; insulators very few and of divers patterns, most of them made at Teheran and all practically useless ; wires which will not work in wet weather, or on dewy nights (although, practically, this does not matter, as the offices are only open during the day) ; joints shamefully made and innocent of solder ; poles that have rotted at the bottom and been shortened and replaced, being then only about seven feet in height ; wires fallen out of the insulators and spiked to the pole, just so high as the gholam (lineman) can reach ; dirty instruments and batteries, and, in some cases, operators addicted to opium smoking. Even in Persia, however, the spirit of improvement has asserted itself. Gradually, by substituting posts of cypress wood, which the white ants do not attack, for those of poplar ; cutting out bad wire, making good joints, fitting up the offices, renewing the instruments, and discharging worthless officials, the period of interruption has been reduced from 1,600 hours in 1887 to 543 in 1893. It seems, however, that nothing can reform the ways of the camels, which insist, when

they cast their coats in the autumn, on rubbing against the telegraph posts. With oriental apathy the keepers refrain from interfering, and the loosening or downfall of the posts, if of wood, is only a question of time. Then, again, soldiers on the march have been known to utilise the telegraph poles for their camp fires; passing travellers to help themselves to a bit of the wire when wanted; whilst every year no fewer than 2,000 insulators are smashed in order that the wrought iron of the bolt may be got at; and in some places the inhabitants continue to use the standards as targets to test the penetrating power of their rifles.

What with mountain storms, perils of robbers, perverse natives, and the habits of four-footed beasts and creeping things of the earth, it will be seen that now, as in the days when Sir F. Goldsmid wrote his well known *Telegraphs and Travel*, a telegraph engineer in Persia has abundant opportunity for the display of all the patience and ingenuity with which Nature has endowed him.

V

## *Newspapers and the Post Office.*

[We reprint below a contributed article which appeared in the *Times* of the 5th December last. Those of our readers who follow the correspondence in the leading newspaper will have no difficulty in recognising in the writer of the article the correspondent who, in January and February, 1892, under the name of "Progress," aired the same views in a lengthy contest with "Taxpayer." The true answer to the suggestions put forward is that it is not the intention of Parliament that the Post Office should enter into competition for work which is already done efficiently by private enterprise. If the service provided by the Department is so very "puerile," it is a singular fact that the newspaper forwarding agents themselves should make use of it to such an extent as they do, many of them posting thousands of newspapers every day. It is amusing to note that the writer of the article should call in the aid of the Post Office to compete with what he calls a "monopoly." One would have thought that if the alleged monopoly exists, private enterprise would have brought the force of competition into play. The fact is that the newsagents and the Department serve two very different classes of customers. The former sends to the towns parcels of newspapers, the contents of which are broken up and distributed by hand, while the Department distributes single copies in rural districts where it would not pay newsagents to deliver. As to the delay in the delivery of newspapers of which the writer speaks, what he probably means is that the deliveries are fitted to the principal arrivals of letters, not newspapers.

It is instructive to note that, although the article was written to advocate a thing for which there is presumed to be a strong public demand, no one took the trouble to write in support of the demand except one gentleman whose letter shows that one who is an authority on railways is not necessarily an instructive writer on Post Office matters:—

"Sir,—Though I for one hope that our Post Office will not attempt to reform its method of dealing with newspapers, as it is worth purchasing at the price of even greater inconvenience so valuable an object lesson of the incapacity of our English Government to organise even the simplest business concern as well as the thing is done by private enterprise, I should yet like to point out that your correspondent has hardly put his own case high enough.

It is not only in Egypt, but, as far as I know, all over the Continent, that the distribution of newspapers is almost universally in the hands of the Post Office. And not the distribution only, for the subscriptions are managed in the same way. Were the Continental method introduced here, a gentleman in Galway or Caithness desiring to receive the *Times* would merely walk into his local post-office, pay his quarterly subscription—3d. per copy, *plus* a quite fractional sum for postage—and the postman would deliver him the paper every day, not crushed and bundled up as at present, but only folded as much as the London newsboy finds it necessary to fold it at present for the purpose of delivery by hand.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

W. M. ACWORTH.

47, St. George's Square, London, S.W., Dec. 5."

If it were worth while to reply to such a letter as this, it might be asked why if private firms do the work well the Government should be asked to interfere. The only result of this intervention was the following choice morsel in the *Star* of the 8th December:—

"How is it that the Post Office can defy the public year after year with impunity? No one says a good word for it. Abuse is its diet. Publicists scold it, journalists deride it, business men curse it. And, in spite of us all, the battered old iniquity shuffles along in the old slipshod, antiquated fashion. Over the façade of St. Martin's-le-Grand might be inscribed the motto of the permanent official:—

THEY SAY—WHAT SAY THEY?—LET THEM SAY.

Mr. Acworth groans in the *Times* over the methods of the P.O. in dealing with newspapers. He may groan, and we may all groan, till Doomsday. Like the prophets of Baal, we may cut ourselves with knives and still our deity will be dumb. To get our *Stars* delivered in the country we must either worry a newsagent or send a subscription to Stonecutter Street. On the Continent, and even in Egypt, we could walk into a local post-office, pay our quarterly subscription, and the postman would deliver us our paper every day, not battered and tattered as in England, but decently folded. Ah, Mr. Morley, they do these things better abroad!"

And so the matter ended.]



AMONG all the customers of the British Post Office there is probably no single interest so important as the newspaper Press. In the first place, in addition to the enormous number of newspaper telegrams sent over Government wires, there is a large and rapidly-growing payment for the rental of private wires, of which the bulk comes from newspaper proprietors. Next, the number of newspapers alone carried by the Post Office is more than a twentieth of all the articles sent through the Post Office—letters, post-cards, book packets, circulars,

samples, newspapers, telegrams, and parcels. While, finally, to these two main items we must add the immense mass of correspondence and postal remittances of money provoked by newspaper advertisements. And yet the Post Office is not satisfied.

Cautiously in public documents, frankly in private conversation, the authorities of the Post Office complain that their work for the newspapers is done at less than cost price, and that the general correspondence of the country has to pay for the privileges of the Press.

The allegation is a serious one; for, though individually we may all like to make a little at the expense of the general ratepayer, collectively we all repudiate the doctrine, so dear to protectionists, that a healthy financial system can be built up by such methods. In this country we profess to believe neither in bounties nor protective tariffs, nor in any form of State favouritism to private interests. If, then, it can be shown that the Post Office is really doing Press work at a loss, there are few newspaper proprietors who would not—perhaps regretfully—agree that the rates must be raised.

Unfortunately the question of fact is one extremely difficult to determine. The Post Office people allege that halfpenny matter does not pay them; that the cost of handling and carrying postal matter is a little less than three farthings for every article carried, and that consequently there is a loss on all halfpenny postage, which loss has to be made good out of the profit on penny letters. This statement, it must be noticed, condemns halfpenny post-cards and the halfpenny letter-circulars which have recently been added to the burdens of the patient householder as well as the halfpenny postage for newspapers. But it is only with the latter question we are for the present concerned. The Post Office people further allege that Press telegrams at the rate of 100 words for a shilling do not pay. Both these allegations, however, turn on deductions extremely difficult to verify. Assuming that the average cost of each article conveyed through the Post Office is three farthings, it does not necessarily follow that the Post Office would gain by refusing all halfpenny matter. A large part of the expenditure of the Post Office is made up of permanent items independent of the amount of postal matter carried, and it may be that the loss of revenue which might follow the discontinuance of halfpenny postage could not be met by any equivalent reduction in expenditure.\* In the same way

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\* See *St. Martin's*, vol. III., p. 295.

with Press telegrams. These, travelling at night when the wires are generally at rest, utilize capital which would else be lying idle, and it is at least possible that the Post Office would be worse off if it were deprived of this source of revenue. On the other hand, it must be admitted that these conjectural amendments of the financial conjectures of the Post Office people do not by any means settle the ethical question. If it is a fact that the average cost of conveying a postal article is three farthings—and there is no sufficient ground for disputing the statement—why should one body of the State's customers be allowed a more favourable rate? The cost of sorting and conveying and delivering a newspaper in a halfpenny wrapper is at least as great as the cost of the same processes for a penny letter, and probably rather greater, so that, if any difference at all is made, newspapers ought, in equity, to be charged at rather a higher rate. The same argument does not apply in the case of telegrams, because a Press telegram of 400 or 500 words obviously costs the Post Office very much less than 40 or 50 separate messages between private persons, so that here the only question is what should be the amount of the concession made to these longer messages.

This latter question cannot be solved except by concession on one side or the other. Either the newspapers must pay more or the Post Office must be content with what it now gets. There is no third course. But in the question of the postage charged on newspapers there is a third course, and a course which could undoubtedly be so directed as to bring gain to both parties.

The essential error in the present system of conveying newspapers through the Post Office can best be seen by comparing the system with the methods adopted by the agents who compete for the business with the Post Office. The newspaper agent sends his carts to the office of the different newspapers and carries off from each in bulk as many copies of the paper as he wants. He then makes up a number of parcels for the different towns he serves, each parcel containing a suitable number of copies of each paper. The parcel travels by rail unbroken, and is charged for as a whole. It is opened at its destination, and the copies are either distributed by hand to customers who have ordered them or are put on sale. The Post Office, on the other hand, unable to shake itself free from methods acquired in dealing with letters, acts as if every newspaper it carries were a private communication from the editor of the paper to his rural customer. It insists that each copy of the paper must

be wrapped in a separate wrapper and legibly addressed to the particular person whom the editor favours with his confidences. All this takes time—time at an hour of the night when every moment is precious. But that is only the beginning. Having secured all these private missives, the Post Office carts them all to the G.P.O., and there solemnly sorts them with the same scrupulous care with which it sorts envelope-concealed offers of marriage or demands for money. It could not in fact do anything less, having made the initial blunder of attempting to distinguish one copy of a newspaper from another copy of the same edition of the same paper. From this point the course of the newspaper in its carefully-addressed wrapper is identical with the course of an ordinary letter. The only difference is that it weighs more and pays less. And that is just where the Post Office people assert that their loss comes in. Probably they are right, but if so the loss is entirely due to their own folly in not realizing that the conveyance of newspapers is essentially a different business from the conveyance of letters. The attempt to discriminate between different copies of the same paper involves only waste of time and waste of labour and profits nobody. All that a subscriber to the *Times* cares about is to receive a copy of each day's *Times* delivered at his door as early as may be every morning. It is absolutely no advantage to him to have a particular copy allocated to him in London and kept separate from all other copies until it reaches his house in the country. Indeed, it is rather a disadvantage, for the paper has to be wrapped so closely and in so many folds as to make it less convenient to read. But far more serious than this slight disadvantage is the delay which the puerile methods of the Post Office necessarily involve. Roughly speaking, copies of newspapers to travel by post have to be ready for the post office vans—wrapped and directed—an hour before the vans of the agents call for their copies; while at the other end there is often a difference of an hour or two hours, or even more, in favour of the agents. As an inevitable result, the agents get the great bulk of the business—probably on most newspapers more than 90 per cent. of the total. It is only, in fact, for outlying villages and country houses that there is a real advantage in having recourse to the Post Office, and that for the simple reason that in these cases no agents exist.

It is primarily, then, on behalf of these outlying localities that a reform in the Post Office system is desirable. But secondarily it is desirable because it would enable the Post Office to get a share of the



work which a few agents now monopolise, to the distinct disadvantage of the Press and the public. The lines on which reform should proceed may be inferred from what has already been written, but more specifically it may be explained that the Post Office must become an agent or direct intermediary between newspaper proprietors and newspaper readers. It should be possible for a rural postman to take orders for the daily or weekly delivery of any registered newspaper, payment being made either to the postman himself or at the nearest post office. The local post-office would pass on the order to the head office of the district, and thence the order would be transmitted to the newspaper department at St. Martin's-le-Grand. This department would then procure a sufficiency of copies of the different papers ordered, on such terms as might be arranged with the newspaper proprietors, and send them down in bulk to the centres whence the orders had come. The rural postman on his rounds would carry with him copies of all the newspapers that had been ordered, and a list of addresses at which they were to be delivered.

That in outline is the way in which a rational Postmaster-General would organise the business of delivering newspapers. There is nothing novel in the suggestion. In other countries the thing is already done, in whole or part. In Egypt, for example, it is possible to order at any post office any newspaper from any country in the world. The subscription to the newspaper, *plus* a small commission, is paid down in the local post office, and the Egyptian Postmaster-General sees the rest of the business through.

Doubtless the agents who now control in this country the sale and distribution of newspapers would object to the interference of the Post Office with their monopoly, just as the carriers objected to the establishment of the parcel post. But there is no moral reason, as there is certainly no legal reason, why the Post Office should not claim its share of this profitable business. Indeed, it already professes to carry newspapers anywhere and everywhere in competition with the agents, only it foregoes the best part of the business by persisting in puerile methods. By a change of method it would at one and the same time confer an immense boon on remote country districts, and turn what it now declares to be a loss into a handsome profit.

## *Some of my "Subs."*



VERY Head Postmaster throughout the country who has any sense of humour has probably been frequently amused at some peculiar characteristics displayed by his Sub-Postmasters. This applies more particularly to retired rural districts, which remain undisturbed by railways, gas or other modern appliances or inventions, but which the Post Office has successfully penetrated. The persons in charge of such offices have their own sweet way of interpreting the rules and regulations laid down for their guidance, and very absurd are some of their conclusions.

I am about to make my biennial survey at some of these offices, and it will afford me much pleasure if you will in thought accompany me on the journey. Seated in a smart turn-out, on the point of departure, envious eyes are cast upon me by my friends and neighbours, who each for the moment wishes he were the Postmaster; but alas! how different are my feelings, for hidden in the folds of the rug lies a small leather pouch, whose contents are destined to cause me hours of thoughtfulness and anxiety before they finally leave my hands.

The May bloom on the hedges sends forth a perfume of delicious sweetness. A large wood which I am just approaching, whose trees are developing their first green, possesses a carpet of blue, bright in colour, tasteful to the eye, and, with the rays of the sun shining amidst the delicately tinted leaves, forms a picture of indescribable loveliness. Passing the wood I see at a short distance a few houses, and in their midst a small church, whose ivy covered walls and miniature spire produce quite a picturesque effect. In a few moments I stop at an old fashioned house on which is exhibited a board bearing the words, S—— Post Office. A greeting from the Sub-Postmaster's wife—the Sub-Postmaster himself being a farmer and at work on the land—and I bring forth my budget of questions.

Armed with the blue papers I must appear a formidable personage, for the good wife is visibly agitated, and in a trembling voice tells me that "They always try to do their work right, and give satisfaction to everybody." I assure her that no complaints have been made as to the management of the office, and proceed to check the credit stock of stamps and postal orders, following this up by a request for the book of rules. By her look of amazement I might have asked for the Queen's crown. Presently the fact dawns upon her that she should really have in her possession what is required, but, "Where *can* it be! I never read it myself, but have seen my husband with it sometimes." The searching of drawers, cupboards, and boxes fails to discover its hiding place, so I proceed with my examination of the registered letter work and other office matters. Finding everything in fairly good order I am about to leave when the Sub-Postmaster enters, and after eyeing me suspiciously for a moment, bids me a short "Good morning." Upon his wife enquiring sharply for the book of rules, "Why," says he, "the kitchen dresser wobbled, so I put it under the back foot to make it firm," and there sure enough the book is found.

A drive of little more than two miles brings me to another village and its Post Office, on entering which I am soon conscious of a great noise of hammering overhead. As there is no one in attendance I instinctively glance up at the ceiling, and presently a portion of it commences to slide away. The end of a ladder next appears through the opening, followed, when it has reached the floor, by the person of the Sub-Postmaster. With dirty hands and face, and wearing an old leather apron, he presents anything but an attractive appearance, but what he lacks in this respect is more than counterbalanced by his extreme politeness. "Come to make the survey, Sir? Yes, Sir; yes, Sir, I'll get you the stamps, Sir. Will you sit down, Sir? You don't come very often, Sir. Shall I get the Postal Orders, Sir? Fine day, Sir," &c., &c. I contrive to get through the work with a little manœuvring, midst his volubility, but have to find fault with the condition of the parcel post scales, which are half an ounce in favour of the public. In answer to my queries, the Sub-Postmaster states in an undertone: "It's my wife, Sir! She's at 'em every day, Sir! I've told her, but it's no use, Sir! She will do it, Sir! She'll get me into trouble, Sir! She will, Sir! I know she will, Sir!" These mysterious disclosures rather take me back, but I eventually ascertain that his wife, in spite of his protests, has insisted upon cleaning the copper pan of the scales every day, and this has caused it to

become lighter and lighter until it has lost as much as half an ounce. Before leaving I gently remonstrate with the too industrious woman, telling her that while her cleanliness and good intentions are admitted, they must not be carried to such an excess as to involve the Department in unnecessary expense. She makes no very definite promise of amendment, however, beyond saying that she likes to see the scales look bright, but will *try* not to clean them so often in future. So I depart, with the feeling uppermost in my mind that she would much rather forego her dinner than miss cleaning those scales for a single day.

Continuing the drive along an uninteresting bye-road for several miles I reach another Post Office, the Sub-Postmaster of which gives his occupation as "Dealer in Live Stock." This is soon apparent, as regards the feathered tribe, for on entering the office I am greeted with the songs and twitterings of at least a score of canaries, and am informed that there is quite a hundred of them in the house. I have been rather anxious to see this Sub-Postmaster, as I have often been amused at some of his official correspondence. One recent case I particularly remember. A form had been sent to him for his report as to the condition of the contents of a damaged parcel. This was his reply: "Sir, the contents of the parcel were of no consequence, they were only sample bottles of whiskey." And yet I know some men who would think such contents of the greatest consequence!

The next office I reach is controlled by two maiden ladies in the forties, of very staid countenance, who look on official visits as a bore, and surveys as almost unbearable. I get along very well, however, until the delicate question of age is reached. There is then a little hesitation in their manner, and a decided disinclination to satisfy my request, but with patience the truth is disclosed and the secret revealed.

Continuing the journey I arrive at one of the smallest of my offices. Here, during the inspection, I am proudly informed by the Sub-Postmaster's wife that, "when Mr. ——— lived here, he used to buy as many as a shilling'sworth of stamps at a time, but now he's gone we don't sell many." I ask if there is any demand for Postal Orders. "A visitor in the village asked for one, three or four years ago, but nobody has wanted any since," is the reply, so I shall not recommend a credit stock of Orders for that office.

On the way home I recall one or two questions that have been asked me by Sub-Postmasters. One is troubled as follows: "There is a man lives here who wants three shilling'sworth of stamps to send

away in a letter. Ought I to let him have them, or should I only sell them to put on letters?" Another one asks: "should we let Mr. T—— have his letters at the office or should we keep 'em and 'liver 'em, as he often sends for 'em as soon as the bags come." This man always speaks of "'liver" and "'livering." The word "deliver" is not in his vocabulary and is evidently unknown to him.

I might mention other amusing remarks, but am nearing the end of my journey, and must reserve them for some future time.


Bawtry.

A. MORTON.



MAKING A COLLECTION.

## *The Post in Grant and Farm.*

“ HERE has not hitherto been published any detailed account of the first establishment, in this country, of the Post Office as a public institution; nor does it appear that anything has been made known of the men who were useful in building up this useful fabric.” Such are the reasons given by Mr. Wilson Hyde, of Edinburgh, for the appearance of his most recent book,\* the object of which is to remedy these two great omissions. With these sweeping statements we do not agree. It may be a matter of opinion whether an adequate history of the Post Office has yet been written, but it certainly is not true that no detailed account of its growth, or of the men who made it, has yet been given. Thirty years ago, Mr. William Lewins published “Her Majesty’s Mails,” which describes much of the early history of the office in almost as much detail as Mr. Hyde’s new work, and the statements become even more startling when connected with the fact that only a year ago there appeared a very excellent and learned “History of the Post Office, from its establishment down to 1836.” We hesitate to suppose that Mr. Hyde has not yet read this book, or is unaware of its existence. Nor is it easily imagined that the claim to be the first and most complete historian of the Post Office can really be made in earnest. If that seemed credible, a good deal would need to be said as to the shortcomings of Mr. Hyde’s method of writing history, but if we view the book as intended to interest not the serious student so much as the general reader, then we are glad to say at once that Mr. Hyde has brought together and published for the first time a good deal of interesting information.

A few words must, however, be said of the chief shortcomings of the book which affect its usefulness to all classes of readers. There

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\*The Post in Grant and Farm, by J. Wilson Hyde, Controller in the General Post Office in Edinburgh. London: A. & C. Black, 1 vol. octavo, price 5/-.

is no index, and this is an unpardonable omission in a book full of details. The introductory table of contents does not really supply the place of an index, and it is very difficult to refer back to any particular passage. This difficulty is a good deal increased by a want of method in the arrangement. We may find an event of 1635 being discussed at one page, and a little later we are back again at 1633. No authorities are given. Vaguely we are told that something is stated in a letter or document, but without any reference to the original. In this respect Mr. Hyde reminds us of the correspondents of the Mahatmas, to whom letters are mysteriously conveyed through space.

From the correspondence of Coke, Secretary of State to Charles I., Mr. Hyde gives some interesting particulars of the difficulties of the early packet service to the Continent. In June, 1635, the Calais packet was "laid aboard" by an armed shallop full of Calais musketeers, and the mails and passengers were robbed. In the same year the Flushing Post complained that his vessel had been robbed five times in seven weeks by Frenchmen and Flushingers. "They shot at him and commanded him to strike, calling him and the rest 'English dogs;' and coming aboard they used violence, beating them, stripping them of all their money, apparel and goods, and took from the Post all his bundle of letters among which was a packet from the king." To stop these robberies armed men were shipped on the packets and some lively fights took place. At another time a Calais mob attacked a mail boat in harbour with "His Majesty's colours at the stern," and threw stones at the crew, rending also the said "Unite" colours. There was clearly in those days in Calais, "a very froward inclination towards His Majesty's subjects."

The man who practically founded the Post Office, as we know it, was Thomas Witherings. In 1635 a scheme of inland public posts, which he had drawn up, was sanctioned by Royal proclamation. Mr. Hyde has gathered a good many interesting details of the struggles in which Witherings was involved with his rival, the Master of the Royal Posts, with carriers and other private traders carrying letters, and with his postmasters, whose accounts seem to have been always in arrear. Witherings began his connection with postal business as Master of the Foreign Merchants' post, which was established by foreigners in London in the reign of Elizabeth, and soon afterwards taken under Government control in order that a check might be kept on treasonable correspondence. In one passage Mr.

Hyde, however, seems to speak of the appointment as having been created by James I. in order that it might be disposed of for a little ready money. Witherings died in 1651, and was buried at Hornchurch, in Essex, where he had an estate. Mr. Hyde gives us his epitaph: "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Witheringe, Esqr., Chief Postmaster of Great Britain and foreigne parts, second to none for unfathomed poilesicy, unparalled sagacius and divining genius; witness his great correspondence in all parts of ye Christian world." The mis-spelling of the name is characteristic of the times. There can, we think, be no question that Witherings is entitled to rank as a great postal reformer with Ralph Allen, John Palmer, or Rowland Hill. Mr. Hyde is not quite sure of this, but does not deny him a meed of praise expressed in a very striking metaphor. "In a negative sense it may be said that he was no tin-plate man, devoid of stability, reflecting only the opinions of others, and capable of being cut into any shape by the scissors of expediency."

The extent of the monopoly enjoyed by the Post Office has of late years excited a good deal of interest. Mr. Hyde publishes several letters showing to what an extent private and local posts competed with the official posts, and a good deal of light is thrown on the struggles which led to the recognised exceptions to the monopoly. He quotes a proclamation of 1638, to which we believe attention has not previously been called. It deals with letters sent by carriers, who apparently were not content to carry letters in their slow carts, but had established swift posts with relays. The order states that "their Lordships declared that it would be lawful for any carrier that should receive the letters of merchants and others, to be carried from town to town within the kingdom, to use what diligence he may, and to ride what pace he will, so as he do it without shifting or change of horses." Another proclamation a few days later allowed the carriers to bring letters to London "not above eight hours before the carts." The reason of this concession probably was that merchants might be enabled to fetch goods consigned to them as soon as the carts arrived.

Many interesting particulars are given by Mr. Hyde illustrating the position of the local postmasters in the early days. They were usually innkeepers, and they took office for the sake of the business which it brought. For the work done for the crown in conveying despatches they do not seem to have been paid with any regularity. Petitions are quoted by Mr. Hyde wherein postmasters ask for arrears due to their grandfathers. They had to pay considerable sums for



their appointments, but they had the exclusive right of letting post-horses to travellers, and therefore the best chance of obtaining their custom for their inns. If they had no horses of their own they could requisition horses from private owners, and apparently when they did so for the carriage of Government despatches no payment was made while the horses were waiting to be used. Unscrupulous postmasters undoubtedly used their powers to levy blackmail from horse owners who wished to escape having their horses requisitioned.

Mr. Hyde has been fortunate in obtaining access to the letter books of Colonel Roger Whitley, the deputy Postmaster-General to the Earl of Arlington, by whom the Post Office was farmed. These cover the period from 1672 to 1677, and are now in the possession of Sir Philip Mainwaring, whose ancestor married Colonel Whitley's daughter. The books contain the correspondence with postmasters throughout the country, and, judging by the extracts given by Mr. Hyde, give a better picture of Post Office work than any other existing records. Colonel Whitley appears in them as a most excellent official much vexed by defaulting postmasters. To the postmaster of York he wrote: "I cannot imagine why you should not think yourself sufficiently empowered by my last and former letters to do right to the merchants in all their just demands; nay, further, to gratify them sometimes in little disputes (though they be in the mistake) rather than exasperate and disoblige gentlemen that support the office by their correspondence. In another letter to the Postmaster of Norwich, Whitley wrote: "I know their (*i.e.*, the merchants') ingenuity will prompt them to consider the usefulness of this office to their commerce, and how we work and travail night and day for them. . . . I never found, in all my experience, that I lost anything by submitting to the justice and civility of conscientious men."

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## *The "New" Ghost.*



OUR colleague, Mr. Frank Podmore, has recently published an important work entitled "Apparitions and Thought Transference" \* in which he gives a general view of the results of the work of the "Psychical Research" Society and kindred bodies. The book is shorter and less discursive than the larger work "Phantasms of the living," published some years ago, in the production of which he bore a part, and at the same time it embodies more recent evidence.

Mr. Podmore offers a theory in explanation of the various classes of occult mental phenomena. His hypothesis is "that communication is possible between mind and mind otherwise than through the known channels of the senses." This process he terms "telepathy." As examples of the process he discusses the transference of simple sensations and visual images from the mind of a person willing to the mind of a recipient, both when in a normal condition of wakefulness and in a hypnotic state. Between these two conditions he sees no fundamental distinction. In the first the process is supposed to take place as a mental activity underlying consciousness and not appearing in it. In the second he considers that this sub-conscious activity has free play and for the time supersedes and displaces ordinary consciousness. Besides sensations of sense and visual images, actions can be induced or inhibited, even of such an elaborate character as those involved in "Planchette" writing, in which the recipient subject is supposed to write down answers to questions merely thought of by the controlling agent. Evidence is quoted also to show that sleep and hypnotic trance can be induced at a distance by will.

Many cases are described in which impressions and ideas appear to be transferred without any conscious effort of will. One of the most striking incidents quoted is the awakening of a lady by the

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\* "Apparitions and Thought Transference." Contemporary Science Series. London: Walter Scott, Limited, 1 vol. octavo.

sensation of a violent blow on the mouth at the exact moment when her husband in a sailing boat received such a blow from a part of the rigging. Many striking instances are also quoted of "coincident dreams," that is of dreams in which visions or impressions were received of circumstances afterwards ascertained to be true in fact.

Then also we have such experiences as the vision of phantasms of persons at the time of some great danger or the approach of death by those most attached to them. Sometimes these visions of ghosts are simultaneously experienced by several persons. Then again there are the phenomena of clairvoyance, that is of the realisation or vision by persons, generally in a state of trance, of circumstances never known to them by information or experience and yet found to be true, or it may be of circumstances not yet realised but which afterwards are found to fulfil themselves. Crystal vision is the most ancient form of this power. Mr. Podmore, we notice, attributes no magical power to the crystal, while admitting the reality of such visions, and reduces it to a mere focus on which the percipient concentrates his (or more often her) attention.

Admitting that some cases of each kind are real experiences we must admit that we have phenomena which appear inexplicable as cases of mere ordinary perception or imagination. But the first admission is a large one. Mr. Podmore points out very fully the numerous modes in which ignorance, deceit, vanity, and treacherous memory may affect the accounts given of such things. But even admitting "Telepathy" as a fact, we have not got very far. We have, indeed, the explanation which satisfies people who think that a collection of facts are explained when they receive a general name. In the ancient days when men saw something they did not understand they ascribed it to the action of some fetish which they had made with their own hands. Nowadays men in the same circumstances make a name and call it an explanation. But indeed nothing ever can be finally "explained." Given any fact, science may discover its antecedent conditions and then again theirs in turn, and so run through the whole history of the universe; but always and below all lies the mystery that anything should ever be, the darkness into which the eyes and instruments of science can never penetrate. All that science can do is to examine the conditions that precede and succeed any given phenomenon, as well as the elements of which it is composed, and this is what modern science has set itself to do. Unless this can be done, and is done, no research is worthy of the name of science.

Viewed in this light "telepathy" has done little to justify its title to be considered a scientific theory. Its claim to exist as a hypothesis rests practically on the theory of probability rather than on any more convincing induction. Of the conditions in which the process takes place nothing certain can be said. Will may or may not be consciously exercised—emotion and feeling may or may not link agent and percipient. Conscious effort or expectation may or may not be present in the percipient. If we turn to the physical side of the subject we find but a blanker and more hopeless ignorance. Physiology asserts that every change of mental state is accompanied by some change in the nervous material of our bodies. But physiology has practically abandoned the attempt to discover the changes which accompany all but the most simple and ordinary mental states, for in exposing the nervous structure to observation the life of the percipient is destroyed. Much less can physical observation hope to discover the material changes which accompany the infinitely more subtle psychical conditions supposed in telepathy.

Towards our old friend the good old ghost of Christmas numbers, who for so long has rattled his chains and clanked his armour as he wandered through time-stained corridors and chambers, Mr. Podmore is almost rude and even plainly hints that he does not consider him entitled to a moment's scientific investigation. This seems a little unfair. If we admit a possibility of real efficacy in the planchette of modern spiritualists or in the crystal of the mediæval astrologer why should we shun the favourite of the story tellers of so many centuries?

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## *After Office Hours.*

### **The Genius for Friendship.**

I was very much struck the other day with a remark made by the Rev. William Rogers, the Rector of Bishopsgate, on the occasion of a presentation to him at the Bishopsgate Institute. Everybody has been wondering why Mr. Rogers in his seventy-sixth year is plain Mr. Rogers still, without honours and without preferment, seeing that he has always been regarded as an intellectual giant. Mr. Rogers himself supplied the explanation in his answer to Lord Rosebery. He said that when he was a schoolboy his tutor at Eton had told him he was a genius, but that he had been led away from genius by "the fascinations of friendship." Rogers leaves very little behind him of work which in the ordinary sense of the word indicates "genius." But "genius" will "out" in some direction if the man possesses it, and many men put it into their friendships. Mr. Froude indeed used to indignantly protest against the ordinary limitation of the possession of genius to authors and their kind. In a letter he says to a correspondent—"I entirely except to your view that there is no genius in the country beyond what is occupying itself with stringing words together in prose or verse. I should say, on the contrary, that genius intuitively seeks the practical, and only by accident gets squeezed off the road into book-writing. The ablest men in this country at this time, I believe, are lawyers, engineers, men of science, doctors, statesmen, anything but authors." Mr. Froude might have found a place in his list for those who, like Rogers, have made friendship an art, seeing that friendship is really the most practical thing in the world. I have noticed in biographies and criticisms of men of letters this side of their character apologised for, and their failure to produce this or that great work has been put down to the fact that they yielded to the "fascinations of friendship." But surely the man himself counts for something in our estimate of his genius, and the production of artistic work is but one aspect of his life's business. In the long run we value most the men who have an all-roundedness of character and the men of genius who are not altogether specialists. It would not be too much to say that men like Dr. Johnson, William Cowper, Oliver Goldsmith, Charles Lamb, Sydney Smith, and Dean Stanley, live in our history as much by the fact that they yielded to the fascinations of friendship as by the literary work they produced. And I must

confess that it does my soul good to read in Mr. Froude's *Life and Letters of Erasmus* that the great translator of the New Testament, the eminent theologian, the greatest scholar of his time, was a many-sided man and could unbend in his private correspondence. This is an extract from one of his letters: "To mention but a single attraction, the English girls are divinely pretty, soft, pleasant, gentle, and charming as the muses. They have one custom which cannot be too much admired. When you go anywhere on a visit the girls all kiss you. They kiss you when you arrive, they kiss you when you go away, and they kiss you again when you return. Go where you will it is all kisses; and my dear Faustus if you had once tasted how soft and fragrant those lips are you would wish to spend your life here." Until I read Mr. Froude's book I had always understood that Erasmus was attracted to England by reason of her scholarship, her culture, and her toleration of opinion. There are wheels within wheels of course in everything, but do we not like Erasmus all the better because it is evident from this passage that the *literæ humaniores* were not the sole reasons which induced him to haunt our Universities? There were "kisses waiting for" him in addition to the best that has been said and thought in the world. And we may fairly suspect that in his letter to Faustus, Erasmus was committing an error in reasoning from the particular to the universal, that the attentions he received were the special reward of his own lovable disposition, and that if Faustus had really visited this country owing to the hopes which Erasmus had raised he might have found our countrywomen less liberal in their favours. While I am talking of Erasmus and the charm of his character, I should like to draw particular attention to his own beautiful portrait of Dean Colet. Dean Colet was a clergyman of a type of which the Church of England almost possesses a monopoly. It is, I am afraid, a possession which in these modern days, sacred to fanatics and narrow enthusiasts, she does not value as she ought to do, but then preferment would probably spoil their particular genius. Of Dean Colet, Erasmus says—"He was a man of genuine piety. He was not born with it. He was naturally hot, impetuous and resentful, indolent, fond of pleasure and of women's society—disposed to make a joke of everything. He told me that he had fought against his faults with study, fasting and prayer, and thus his whole life was in fact unpolluted with the world's defilements. His money he gave all to pious uses, worked incessantly, talked always on serious subjects to conquer his disposition to levity; not but what you could see traces of the old Adam when wit was flying at feast or festival. He avoided large parties for this reason." The picture of Dean Colet in his pulpit at St. Paul's, a forerunner of the English reformation, is an inspiring one to the student of English history, but the picture which goes to my own heart is Dean Colet yielding to "the fascinations of friendship" at the "large parties" which we may reasonably suspect he attended oftener than Erasmus in his charity believed. The struggle to refrain from making "a joke of

everything" is a tragedy of itself, and it wins for him our respectful sympathy, so much so that with four hundred years between his time and our own, he is to many of us as a man whom we have known and have loved. And is not this utterance in the very spirit of the New Testament? "He did not make light of impurity, but he thought it less criminal than spite and malice and envy and vanity and ignorance." Like Rogers, Dean Colet considered he was being led away from "genius," when "wit was flying at feast or festival." We may be allowed to think differently and to regard genius as "the wind which bloweth where it listeth," and of which we hear the sound but "cannot tell whence it cometh or wither it goeth," except that it is not limited to "stringing words together in prose or verse." A very clever writer has lately given her opinion that Mr. Pater's *Marius the Epicurean* is the most beautiful figure in recent literature. Regarded from the outside his life was a succession of imperfect results. But his death was a joyous one and the following exquisite quotation gives us a clue to his happiness.—"Like a child thinking over the toys it loves, one after another, that it may fall asleep so, and the sooner forget all about them, he would try to fix his mind, as it were impassively, on all the persons he had loved in life—on his love for them, dead or living, grateful for his love or not, rather than on theirs for him—letting their images pass away again or rest with him as they would. One after another he suffered those faces and voices to come and go as in some mechanical exercise, as he might have repeated all the verses he knew by heart, or like the telling of beads, one by one, with many a sleepy nod between whiles." Are we to regard such a passing away as the result of being led away from genius? I think we are often saved as human beings by the presence of what we are inclined to believe is our besetting sin. I say this with no idea of being paradoxical but as the result of every-day observation. Even those of our number who are incased in an official hide, the thickness of which to our outward view has obliterated all traces of the human soul within, have probably a weak place somewhere which saves their manhood and their spiritual nature. They are perhaps "led away from" officialism by "the fascinations of friendship," or by vanity or love of authority, or by any one of the little foolishnesses one is pleased to notice in even the highest officials. They may lose preferment, perhaps, by what they think is their own weakness, but they keep their humanity intact. And after all that is the only thing worth keeping. "When all is done, human life is, at the greatest and the best, but like a froward child that must be played with and humoured a little to keep it quiet till it falls asleep, and then the care is over." "The fifty volumes of the British Essayists are in that little phrase" of Sir William Temple's, says Mr. George Saintsbury, and we agree with him. The things we strive after are not the things which are worth having if in the striving we play the game too seriously and put all our genius into one basket.

E. B.

# St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

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## Re-direction.

THE principal postal change of recent date has been the extension of free re-direction to all classes of postal matter except parcels. As this change only came into operation on the 1st January, it is too soon yet to say how the restrictions which accompany the concession will be received, and how far the concession will be abused by unscrupulous persons; but we cannot but think that it will be necessary to use the dated stamp on book post matter more freely than it has hitherto been used. Some details of the arrangement are given in Mr. Morley's speech, which we print elsewhere.

## Imperial Postage.

THE publication of Lord Jersey's report on the Conference at Ottawa serves to accentuate a point to which we called attention in our last number. Delegates were specially chosen from all our great self-governing colonies for the discussion of postal and telegraphic matters of Imperial interest. This conference sat for weeks and went thoroughly into the matter: and yet from first to last not a word was said about Imperial Penny Postage. The moral seems obviously to be that the colonies do not want it, and that what they do want is improved communications.

\* \* \*

THE accession of the Cape Colony to the Postal Union makes the latter practically universal. In all countries those who really understand postal politics regard the Union as an invaluable institution because it places what is a matter of universal interest on a universal basis.

## The Irish Mails.

THE acceleration and improvement of the mail service between London and Kingstown (says the *Times* of the 15th December) is a matter about which Irishmen feel a deep interest. Irish Chambers of Commerce have kept it constantly in view; Irish members have again and again brought it forward in the House of Commons, and the very considerable improvements which have been made in the service since it was started under the contract of 1850 have been largely due to the pressure which all parties have brought to bear upon the postal authorities, and to the soundness of the arguments on which their requisitions have been based. But, though



much has been done already in the direction both of acceleration and of improvement, the cry has been raised that still more ought to be done; that the existing service, excellent as it admittedly was when it was started in 1885, is not now on a level with more recent science, and that the time has come when it could be further improved to the common benefit of Ireland and of the Post Office. That the change demanded would be to the benefit of Ireland there can be no doubt at all. The general and commercial interests of the country are closely bound up with the maintenance of a rapid and thoroughly efficient system of communication for mails and passengers between Great Britain and Ireland. Nor would the added cost to the Post Office of the improvements now asked for be greater, it is argued, than would be covered, and more than covered, by the increased business which would be done. It was in 1860 that the first great improvement was made in the service between London and Kingstown, and it has been followed by an enormous development of postal business. The inference is that like causes would produce like effects, and that, if the service were further accelerated, the postal business would be proportionally increased. The service is now conducted under a twelve-year contract, entered into on October 1, 1883, between the Post Office on the one side and the London and North-Western Railway and the City of Dublin Steamship Company on the other side, and it is liable to be terminated at the end of the stipulated period by a twelvemonth's notice on either side. The wish of the Irish chambers of commerce and of the Irish members is that the requisite notice should be given and that a new bargain should be struck, and that the mail service between the two countries should have the full advantage of all that modern science and modern invention can do for it.

Here, however, the question of expense comes in. The total cost at which the service is now maintained is £147,000 a year, of which £84,000 is the amount paid for the sea service. The time occupied by the whole journey between Euston and Kingstown is ten hours and twenty minutes, and of this the railway journey occupies 6 hours 13 minutes; the sea service, including transfer of mails at Holyhead and Kingstown, four hours and seven minutes. The City of Dublin Steamship Company, in reply to an advertisement issued by the Postmaster-General on July 6, 1894, have offered to accelerate their part of the service by half an hour, at a charge increased from the £84,000 at which it now stands, to £135,000: or, in the alternative, to accelerate it by a full hour at a charge of £275,000 a year. These terms the Postmaster-General considers to be exorbitant, and in his reply on November 16 to a deputation from the Chambers of Commerce of Dublin, Cork, and Belfast, he said that he did not propose at present to make any alteration in the sea service between Holyhead and Kingstown. Thus, then, the matter rests for the time, to the grave dissatisfaction of the Irish Chambers of Commerce, and presumably of those of their countrymen for whom they claim to speak. They complain that it is unfair that

the service in question should continue to be carried on as a temporary service without certainty of tenure and without any indication being given of the probable course of events in the future. They exclaim against what they deem the ill-judged economy of the Post Office, which thinks only of saving money and has no faith in the promised expansion of business. They believe, in the words of an old Treasury minute, that the time has again come for such a revision of the service as shall keep it up to the highest point of perfection which any improvements may render practicable. If this, they urge, was desirable in 1855, it is no less desirable now. The same arguments can be used now in support of it. The improvements sought are without doubt practicable, and that they would be worth what they would cost is a point rather assumed than proved.

But, careless as the Irish Chambers of Commerce may be about the increased expenditure which a compliance with their demands would entail, it is a point which the Postmaster-General is bound to take into account, and since the Admiralty experts agree with him in pronouncing the terms of the tender sent in to him exorbitant, we cannot say that he has done wrongly in rejecting it. The maintenance and improvement of the service between London and Kingstown are important not only for Irish local interests. The service in question is part of the whole mail service between London and New York, and it is largely to the benefit of Ireland that the existing transoceanic service, *via* Queenstown, should be continued. Nor is Great Britain unconcerned in its continuance. If the American mails were despatched from Southampton the change would serve well enough for London and the southern counties generally. For the northern counties and for Scotland it would cause both delay and inconvenience, and these districts have a considerable interest in the matter and a claim to be considered in any arrangements which may be made about it. Ireland, we need hardly say, would deeply resent a change so detrimental to her as the suggested transfer would be. It has only been talked of as yet. Nothing has been done officially, and we hope that it may be found possible at a moderate cost so to improve the Queenstown route as to meet all public requirements.

### Sir Francis Freeling.

WE have much pleasure in presenting our readers with a portrait of Sir Francis Freeling, Bart., after a photograph taken by our colleague Mr. R. O'C. N. Deane, from an engraving of the original picture painted by George Jones, R.A., and engraved by Charles Turner, A.R.A. Freeling was the son of a journeyman sugar-baker of Redcliffe Hill, Bristol; and after being educated at Colston's School, he was placed on the staff of the Bristol Post Office. Here his zeal and ability brought him under the notice of Palmer, the inventor of mail coaches, who had recently been



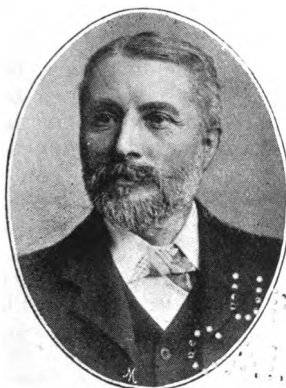
W. LASCELLES  
(Ashton-under-Lyne).



G. R. ETHERTON  
(Worthing).



H. R. OAKEY  
(Bridgwater).



T. E. JAMES  
(Stockport).



M. MILLWARD  
(Woolwich).



W. K. ORRELL  
(Runcorn).



D. MCPHERSON  
(Falkirk).



F. NOKES  
(Late Bilston).

✧ SOME POSTMASTERS ✧

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appointed Comptroller General, and who needed fresh blood to carry out his schemes against determined opposition. Freeling was for two years employed by him in regulating the new coaches, and in 1787, when the number of Surveyors was increased to seven, he was appointed to one of the vacancies. His subsequent history may be read in Mr. Joyce's fascinating pages, and we will merely add that he was Secretary from 1798 to 1836, when he died. He was buried in the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, where his tomb may still be seen bearing the following inscription :—

“To the memory of Sir Francis Freeling, Baronet, who was born in this parish the 25th August, 1764, and who died in Bryanston Square, in the county of Middlesex, the 10th July, 1836. For more than half-a-century his life was devoted to the public service of the General Post Office, in which for 38 years he discharged the arduous duties of Secretary. By unwearied industry in the employment of great talents, and by unblemished integrity grounded upon Christian principles, he acquired and maintained the favour of three successive sovereigns and the approbation of the public. He has left a name which will be remembered with honour in his birthplace, and which is cherished with affection and veneration by his children, who have raised this monument.”

### The New Leipzig Post Office.

A recent number of *Archiv für Post und Telegraphie* contains an interesting account of the magnificent new *Posthalterei-gebäude* at Leipzig, the finest of its kind in Germany. A German Post Office is a wonderful place, and this one may be best described as a town in itself. It is 260 feet long, 210 feet wide, and, including the courtyard, covers nearly one and a half acres of ground.

The basement contains the electrical machinery and the heating apparatus. On the ground floor are the public offices, a large hall for the mail coaches, a varnishing workshop, smithy, wheelwright's room, drivers' room, two harness rooms, and last, but not least, accommodation for 300 horses. It is noticeable that the number of horses employed has risen during the past 16 years from 78 to 224, that there are now 156 drivers, and a grand total of 175 conveyances. The first floor contains the dormitories, comfortably furnished for the accommodation of the unmarried drivers, and here also are the tailoring and saddle-making rooms. Regular employment is found in the workshops for ten smiths, eight varnishers, six wheelwrights, one locksmith, one tailor, and six saddlers. The building is, in parts, three stories high, and this additional space is used for the accommodation of other members of the staff and for the Postmaster and his family.

It is significant that the foundation-stone was laid on the 17th July, 1893, and that on the 31st July, 1894, the building was finished even to the minutest details and ready for use.

## Wisdom and Philately.

**M**R. A. C. C. JONES, writing from Bermuda, encloses a copy of a letter written by an old lady to one who, having bowed the knee to Philatelia, subsequently gave satisfactory proof of his zeal as a disciple by plaguing his friends for "something rare." We print with pleasure the mellow words of wisdom from the pen of this estimable woman:—

"'Tis quite time, my friend, I answered your note, in which you request me to send you some old stamps on which you seem to set a great value, I know not for why, but I do know that time is very precious, and I shrink from occupying it in turning over my old letters in search of your much desired object. If I possessed an album I most certainly should not put one old stamp in it; an album is to inset autographs of celebrated people, and for those thoughts of wise heads of which there are so few. I may by inquiry discover the origin of this stamp mania. I return the envelope you enclosed to me, which will furnish you with one stamp for your collection."

## Bermuda.

**W**E gather from the last report of the Colonial Postmaster, Mr. A. G. Butterfield, that the financial condition of the Bermuda Post Office is satisfactory. Notwithstanding the reduction of postage to the recognised rate of 2½d. the ½ oz. on letters for all countries within the Postal Union, the sale of stamps for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1894, exceeded that of any previous year. The total receipts during the same period amounted to £3,881 17s. 7d., and the expenditure to £3,565 5s. 5d., a balance to the good of £316 16s. 2d. The mails for New York suffered delay on the 15th June, 1893, when the SS. *Orinoco* assisted in towing a ship to port. A fine of £10 was imposed upon the owners, the Quebec SS. Co., in accordance with the terms of the contract, for not having made the passage within the required time. The report does not admit of *faciæ*.

## A 17th Century Postmistress.

**T**HE following translation of an old German postal document, dating back to the year 1679, will, we are sure, be read with interest. The document loses heavily by translation—how well has it been said that bishops alone benefit by the process—and those of our readers who would fully appreciate the quaint spelling and still quainter conceits of the original, should turn to No. 14 of last year's *Archiv für Post und Telegraphie*, the official gazette of the German Post Office, to the editor of which we express our indebtedness.

In an introductory note we are told that as early as 1646 a regular postal service had been established between Münster, in Westphalia, and Brussels. Two years afterwards, at the former town, was signed the Peace of Westphalia, which brought to a close the terrible Thirty

Years' War. At Dülmen, a town on the high road between Münster and Brussels, the Postmaster was largely responsible for the due forwarding of the ordinary and extra-ordinary mails to and from these places, and his position was therefore an important one.

The document, which in its details betrays its Netherlandish origin, runs as follows :—" We, Eugenius Alexander, Count of Thurn, Valsassina, Tassis and the Holy Empire, Chamberlain of His Majesty the Roman Emperor, Hereditary Postmaster-General of the Realm, make known to those in Niderland, Burgund, etc., that owing to the decease of Joannis Hönigh, late Postmaster of Dulmen, Westphalia, it is necessary for our interest, and for that of the Holy Roman Empire, to appoint someone else in his place, and accordingly, having received satisfactory reports of the faithful service rendered to us for many years by the above-mentioned Joannis Honingh (*sic*) and also by reason of other considerations, we have conferred upon his widow, Elizabeth Bucholtz,\* and have entrusted to her our Post Office at Dulmen, and have appointed her to it with all the privileges, rights, liberties, exemptions and profits† belonging to it. We do this herewith, and further, in virtue of this letter, we give her full power and special command that she shall make those whom she employs to blow the posthorn both on entering and leaving the town, and that she and her servants shall diligently attend to the forwarding of the ordinary and extra-ordinary posts, and to the delivery of letters and parcels (brieff vnd pachhetten) between Gelder and Munster and *vice versa*, and that she shall be contented with the salary we think right to give her, and in general shall observe and carry out all the orders, commands and notices which now or in the future will be issued for the rectification or improvement of the Post Office service; and if she be willing to do this and to perform the other duties involved in this, Elizabeth Bucholtz is desired to give the necessary oath, with the especial reservation, however, that we at any time shall be entitled to revoke and annul this Commission according to our judgment and thus avail ourselves of the authority conferred upon us by the charters and privileges of our hereditary General-Postmastership. Accordingly, we request both the ecclesiastical and the civil powers, the governors, lieutenants, heads and administrators, superintendents, magistrates, judges, and all those in authority, of whatsoever rank, state or condition they may be,‡ to allow the aforesaid Elizabeth Bucholtz to enjoy quietly and make use of this our appointment of her to the Dulmen Post Office with the usual privileges, rights and exemptions, neither to hinder

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\* The change of name would lead one to suppose that she must have soon re-married.

† Privilegien, Gerechtigkeiten, Freyheiten, Exemptionen vnd Nutzungen *conferiret* vnd anvertruwet Ihren (!)

‡ Gelanget demnach ahn alle vnd jede Gaistliche vnd weltliche Obrighheyten, auch sonsten alle *Gubernatores*, Leutenanten, Ampt vnd Haubleuthe, pflegers, Vogtt, Richters vnd alle andern Befelchshabern vnd Beampten, wass Standes, *Condition* oder Wesens die seyen.

nor offend her, nor allow others so to do, but on the contrary, if she have a reasonable request, to give her all needed assistance and thus enable her to serve the Post Office better and to do credit to the Commission. In order that this document shall have greater weight, we have signed it with our own hand, and have had it confirmed with our seal at Brussels, this the 27th day of the month of September, sixteen hundred and seventy-nine, E. Graff von Turn und Tassis.\* *Legerstondt ad mandatum Illustrissimi et Excellentissimi Domini mei Comititis Signatum Josephus de Chaumont.*"

### A Suspicious Occurrence.

THE other day a lady entered a post office not a hundred miles from Regent Street and presented at the counter a letter card which, to judge from its bulged appearance, contained an enclosure. She gave it to the counterclerk, and politely asked her to be so good as to sit on it until post time "to make it flat." The counterclerk with equal politeness complied with the unusual request, and sat on the letter card until, to use her own words, "the desired effect was accomplished."

The reason given by the applicant, viz., that she wanted the letter-card "made flat," strikes us as somewhat inadequate. Is it not more than probable, we ask, that this professed reason was only a subterfuge intended to disguise and conceal some deeper and less innocent design? Why should anyone want a letter card "made flat"? And if they did, what flattening process would be less likely to occur to them than the one now under consideration? The more we think of it, the more convinced we feel that there was *some secret reason* why she wanted to have the flattening process performed by some other person rather than herself. Is it possible, for instance, that she had caught a spider or a beetle, and, lacking the moral courage to destroy it herself, had adopted this indirect method of terminating its existence? Or is it possible (we ask with bated breath) that the card contained an explosive, which only required half-an-hour's moderate warmth and compression to make it explode, but, owing to some oversight or mistake in its preparation, failed to reach the critical point before post time? There is yet a third alternative. What if the sender had been compelled by a stern father to write on that letter card a refusal to the man she loved? And what if, in addition to the refusal, written in black ink under her parent's eye, she had added in secret a recantation thereof in invisible sympathetic ink? And again, what if this latter ink were of such a nature that after the application of half-an-hour's moderate warmth it would become permanent and indelible? If ever there was a case calling for the services of Sherlock Holmes this surely was one. But the golden opportunity was lost. The true solution will never be known, and to future ages the record of the circumstances will serve only to illustrate the potentialities of conjecture.

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\* See Vol. III., p. 270, for an interesting reference to the *Princes of Thurn and Taxis*, hereditary Postmasters-General of the Holy Roman Empire.





A Theosophist ! What a name !

Our Mrs. Besant tries the game.

(From *Ally Sloper's Half Holiday*, 19th September, 1891.)

### Truth and Tbaumaturgy.

THE funniest, and at the same time one of the saddest, series of articles which we have ever read in a newspaper has recently been concluded in the *Westminster Gazette*. We have always regarded Mrs. Besant as an honest woman, and until a short time ago we regarded her as one who was governed by reason and who had a fair share of common sense. Now, we are in some doubt about the first, and in no doubt at all about the other two attributes. When, in August, 1891, she stood for the last time in the Hall of Science, and told her audience that she had the very best evidence of the existence of Mahatmas, and that she had herself received letters from

them by "precipitation," some believed, but most people smiled. A psychical researcher not unknown in our department said he would give her two years to discover the fraud, or become a party to it. What the man in the street thought of it is shown by the sketch reproduced above. Our friend was a little shabby in giving Mrs. Besant only *two* years. If he had given her three he would have been safe, for in July last she made the following admission:—

"When I publicly said that I had received after H. P. Blavatsky's death letters in the writing that H. P. Blavatsky had been accused of forging; I referred to letters given me by Mr. Judge; and as they were in the well-known script, I never dreamed of challenging their source. I know now that they were not written nor precipitated by the Master, and that they were done by Mr. Judge. . . . Having been myself mistaken, I in turn misled the public."

Never surely has any moral or religious organisation developed such a number of scandals in its short existence as has this new little band of brothers.

After this confession of Mrs. Besant the public will have but little interest in her, for she can only rehabilitate her character for truthfulness by admitting that she possesses abounding gullibility. As for the others, no one cares a brass farthing what Olcott and his "flapdoodles" may do or say. The only other person concerned is the Postmaster-General, who must, in his official capacity, feel a chastened joy that one more insidious attack on the Monopoly has failed. At one time it really threatened to be dangerous, for, fired by the Besantine example, Mr. Stead, only a year ago, while travelling in a railway in the south of England, interviewed a countess who was at the time in the north of Scotland, and actually tried to start a daily paper on principles which would have set at nought the postal service and knocked the telegraphs into a cocked hat. It was really a grand discovery when you come to think of it. When first telegraph lines were started *two* wires were required. Then someone discovered that *one* wire would do, the earth forming the return half of the circuit. After that a natural process of reasoning no doubt led Mr. Stead to the conclusion that if the earth did for one half of the circuit it might do for the other half also. Accordingly, he tried it on the public; but the public did not respond with the shekels, and so the great discovery has been relegated to the lumber room of Mowbray House, where it no doubt will rest for some time to come, along with Keeley's motor and other marvels, until he can find some better opportunity of using it to extract Tribute from the Modern Babylon.

### The Heavenly Twins.

So have I heard on Irwell's murky shore  
Another lion give a louder roar,  
And the first lion thought the last a bore.

(*Bombastes Furioso.*)

A LITTLE while ago it was Edinburgh and Glasgow: now it is Liverpool and Manchester. Which of them shall be accounted the greatest in the postal hierarchy?

Who cares, do you ask? Why, the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Liverpool Mercury* care; and, above all, Mr. R. Armitage, Junior, who writes letters to both of them, and also writes to the Postmaster of Manchester. Somebody at Liverpool seems to have begun it, and then the Postmaster of Manchester asserts that "the Manchester Post Office ranks next to London as the largest office in the Kingdom in regard both to postal and telegraph business." Then Liverpool steams ahead with a boast that its operations are of an international rather than a local character: but however "international" the Postmaster of Liverpool may recently have been, he finds his match at Manchester, whose postmaster retorts that "the status of a Provincial Post Office is regulated by the magnitude of its operations in the various branches of the postal and telegraph service, and on this basis Manchester is the largest office in the kingdom."

And so Mr. Armitage, Junior, scores, and the *Manchester Guardian* chortles; but what was it that the judicious poet wrote so long ago?

"Oh! dribble dirty, dribble black,  
Ye Mersey, Irwell, Ribble,  
But put your pride behind your back,  
Be modest while ye dribble.

"From Spinning Jenny and from wharf  
Shout voices in a muddle,  
The Man of *Manchester's* a dwarf,  
The *Liverpool* a puddle."

And what was it that the actor said of Liverpool, and why doesn't the Manchester controversialist remember it? "There isn't a brick in your accursed city that isn't cemented with the blood of a slave." And why doesn't Liverpool retort, with the late Laureate, "We are not cotton-spinners all"?

Quarrel away, my dear good cities, quarrel away, but for very goodness' sake leave your post offices alone! Quarrel about options or futures, or bi-metalism or the Canal; quarrel about politics or vivisection, the Liverpool cemetery or the Manchester water supply, and spare us this abject nonsense about your post offices.

### Word Spinning.

THE following description of the circulation of a telegram, extracted from the *Daily Chronicle*, may strike some of our telegraphist readers as a pleasing contrast to the cold and passionless style of official instruction books:—"Calcutta, however, or Simla, are but next door in comparison with the places that could be 'called' by a touch of the key. From the head offices in Broad Street, or the branches in Holborn or Parliament Street or Charing Cross, you can write your message—at ten letters to a word, which interferes somewhat with an effusive style—and within an hour a

messenger with a white or a black or a yellow face, and in garments of familiar or very unfamiliar material and cut, will rouse up your friend in Principe or Perak, in Mozambique or Mossamedes, in Conakry or Sungie-Ujong. You never heard of any of these places? That only shows how remote are the spots with which the cable puts you in almost instantaneous connection. Egypt and Persia; Africa and India; South America; the Malay Peninsula and Siam; China, Japan, and the Philippine Islands; Australia and New Zealand—these are the parts of the world which the Eastern Telegraph Company binds together with its cables. You desire, for instance, to order a quantity of hemp in Manila, which is about as far from London as any place on the globe. You write your message, you pay for it at the rate of nine shillings a word, you take your receipt and go about your business. But what happens to this message? The clerk in London rattles his key; the dots and dashes of the Morse alphabet echo in Paris; Paris calls Marseilles; Marseilles speaks to Brindisi or Malta; Brindisi summons Port Said; Port Said signals the watcher on the 'barren rocks of Aden'; Aden clicks to Bombay; Bombay wakes up Madras; Madras sends a current under its surf-beaten shore across the sea to 'where Chinese thrive' in Penang, in the Straits Settlements; Penang passes the word to Singapore, the island of the lion, the southernmost point of Asia; from the centre of Singapore go the dots and dashes to the little white house on Cape St. James, at the mouth of the river of Saigon, the French failure of Cochin-China; Cape St. James tells the operator in the Queen's Road, in the city of Victoria, in the island of Hong Kong, deserted because of the plague; Hong Kong cares nothing for the typhoon raging in the most stormy ocean of the world, but calmly orders Manila to do your bidding; and at last a brown-faced 'mestizo,' speaking Spanish, with a little smoking-cap on his head, possibly with a fighting-cock under his arm, and certainly dressed only in a pair of trousers and a flowing white shirt, carries your order for hemp through the earthquake-scarred streets, and takes a receipt for it in a 'chit-book.' By this time you have perhaps got as far as your home in Kensington."

### A Pedestrian Postman.

THE *Gaulois* of the 14th of November announced the death of the oldest rural postman in France, le père Alray, de Mur-de-Barrez. His age is not mentioned, but as, when pensioned in 1893, he had seen seventy years of active service, he must have been no chicken. His daily walk, Sunday included, is given as 46 kilomètres, 28½ English miles. If this is true, French postmen must be made of sterner stuff than their brethren in this country, where the maximum walk is 18 miles a day, and the average about 16, and there is complete rest on alternate Sundays.

### A Cute Frenchman.

A FRENCHMAN resident at Ayr is in the habit of getting tasty sausages and other things in the way of food from his native country by the Parcel Post. Until recently the dainties never arrived without having been "sampled" on the way; and this to such an extent that on many occasions little or nothing remained of the original contents. Matters became desperate, and complaints to the Post Office Department in both countries being ineffectual, the Frenchman hit upon a plan to protect himself by having a printed label as below affixed in a prominent place on each parcel.

## POISON.

—◆—  
 VIANDE PRÉPARÉE POUR LA DESTRUCTION  
 DES RATS ET DES INSECTES.

No one ever interferes with those parcels now.

### Post Office Musical Society.

THE first concert of the fifth season of this society was given at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Thursday, 6th December, 1894. The fine hall was fairly well filled by an enthusiastic audience. Mr. Spencer Walpole, the President of the society, was present, but the Postmaster-General was unavoidably absent owing to a prior engagement, and Mr. Algernon Turnor, being from London, was also unable to attend. There was, however, a very representative gathering of Post Office officials of every grade, and from every department.

The work performed in the first part was the same as that which the society first gave in public on the 28th April, 1891, viz., Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise." It received an exceedingly able rendering, and the improvement in the orchestra on this occasion was most noticeable. The singing of the chorus was very good in many numbers, especially in "The Night is Departing" and the last chorus; but the strength of the choir is not so great as in the earlier years of its existence, and there was not so much brightness of tone or such a good attack as usual in the soprano voices. The tenors and basses were, however, admirable throughout. Like all new societies the period of first excitement being past there is danger of reaction setting in, and loss of interest is to some extent inevitable; but it is to be hoped that this may be only temporary, and that a very large muster of members will be got together for the next concert, when the "Golden Legend" will be performed.

The second part consisted of miscellaneous items. It opened with Weber's "Concertstück" for piano and orchestra, the piano part being magnificently rendered by Mr. James Twyford, Mus. Bac., his first appearance with the society since his degree was conferred upon him. Mr. Arthur Blagrove gave a fine performance of Goltermann's Concerto for 'cello and piano, and other contributions consisted of songs by Mrs. Mary Davies, Mrs. Henry R. Clayton, Mr. Bernard Lane, Miss Lillian Corner and Mr. Sydney Beckley, who also conducted with his usual skill throughout. Special mention must be made of an almost perfect rendering by the choir of Professor Bridge's setting of Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar." The composer was present and was delighted with the performance, and has since written to the conductor in terms of the highest praise, stating that some unexpected and beautiful effects were produced which he should certainly imitate when in future he conducted the work himself.

We are asked to state that the society will continue to meet for practice on each Tuesday at 8.0 p.m., at the room behind Falcon Square Chapel, and that Mr. A. P. Wakeman of the C.E.B. will be happy to give all information regarding conditions of membership.

### Another Veteran Gone.

ON the shortest day of last year the Department was obliged by the stern compulsion of the new sixty-five rule to dispense with the services of one of its most useful, most laborious, and most trusted officers, in the person of Mr. Colin Brodie. Entering the service of the Universal Private Telegraph Company in 1861, as engineer, the transfer of the telegraphs to the State on the 28th January, 1870, materially changed his career. Mr. A. E. Chambre was appointed Surveyor of Private Wires and Mr. Brodie became his principal assistant, until on Mr. Chambre's retirement in 1878, the entire charge of the work devolved on Mr. Brodie. The introduction of the telephone added greatly to his work and responsibilities; and though hitherto, owing to causes quite beyond his control, the Department's share in the telephone work of this country has not been what it ought to be, the labour of organising and administering what there was, has been no small addition to his duties. His also was the duty of investigating requests for extensions of telegraph facilities in town and country.

And now that at last the Department is to take a larger share of the telephone work, he who has for so long taken a leading part in such matters, has to lay aside his armour. His eye is not dim nor is his natural force abated; but nevertheless he is lost, to the Department in whose services he has been wont

"To scorn delights and live laborious days,"

aye! and nights too, for he revelled in statistics and was a master of figures, while a very large part of his work was, we believe, done in the small hours of the morning.

Privately Mr. Brodie is known as a good musician ; and, though it cannot be said that it was his wont to "strictly meditate the thankless muse," yet, as readers of the *Blackfriars Magazine* will remember, he more than once indulged in its pages in a burst of song. Moreover it was his practice to versify for the amusement of his many official friends the incidents of flood and field that befel him during his official trips to the provinces. On one occasion a wag, who has been identified with the lately retired postmaster of a Midland town, published in the pages of the magazine above referred to, some amusing verses describing how :—

COLLINOBRODI ha una dolce voce,  
Atta a domar l'orrenda belva atroce,  
O il pubblico britannico feroce.

Capo di Fil Privati e Telefoni,  
A lui che toccan vituperazioni  
Da *Fabbri, Bruni, Gioni, Robinsoni*?

Even to the end Mr. Brodie's spirits did not desert him, and he took leave of his colleagues in some amusing verses from which we cull the following :—

Farewell, a long farewell to all my trips,  
And hearty greetings from my brother chips ;  
No more the oft recurring consultation  
Anent some rule or doubtful regulation ;  
No more the interview with "our committee"  
Who wish to telephone to every city ;  
No more the long line telephone experiment  
With far off colleagues making test and merriment ;  
All these must henceforth be another's care,  
And I can speak no longer from the chair.

Mr. Brodie's invariable kindness endeared him to all with whom he had dealings, and we are not surprised therefore to hear that those who have had the privilege of serving under him are about to present him with a testimonial of their esteem.

### A Glimpse of the Autocrat.

THAT very interesting and well-written little amateur publication called *Hazell's Magazine* gives in its November issue a capital sketch of the late Oliver Wendell Holmes from the pen of Mr. J. E. Viney. Mr. Viney, when on a visit to Boston some years ago, ventured to write to the autocrat, and was readily accorded an interview. He called with a friend, and "the little autocrat himself stood before us, very small and neat, wiry and cheerful, quite white, but full of life. In every movement he reminded me of a canary." The visitors began complimenting him, and, when they stopped, he replied, "Now, gentlemen, I must confess I'm fond of having pretty things said to me, and I have had plenty of them in my time. Just you sit down there, and say as many as you can think of." This is exactly what we should have expected, for has he not himself told

us that he never met an author in his life (save one, perhaps) who did not purr as audibly as a full grown domestic cat on having his fur smoothed in the right way by a skilful hand?

And then followed an interesting conversation which want of space alone prevents us from quoting; but we note that he considered "Sunshine and Shadow" and the "Chambered Nautilus" as the best of his poems. Last of all, as a great treat he showed his visitors the shell from which the idea of the last named poem was derived. It was from this same shell, by the way, that he drew the idea of the motto he assumed, *Per meliora ad ampliora*, an idea which he has more fully expressed in the beautiful lines:—

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,  
As the swift seasons roll!  
Leave thy low-vaulted past!  
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,  
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,  
Till thou at length art free,  
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!

\* \* \*

THE following letter speaks for itself. It was a reply to a gentleman in our office who had sent him a letter together with the photograph of a well-known tree. It is written throughout in a small neat hand—a canary's hand—and must have been very gratifying to the recipient, who was a perfect stranger to the writer of it.

" Boston, March 25th, 1876.

" MY DEAR SIR,—

" The beautiful photograph of the noble oak is more welcome, even, than you could probably have expected. I am always interested in trees, in photographs, and in everything that belongs to England. Besides this, I happened within a day or two to have been looking up matter connected with the New Forest. I have Gilpin's works, among them his forest scenery, in which the New Forest is a principal subject of his stories and studies. This picture, therefore, came in as if it had been ordered by some invisible spiritual message, at the very moment when it was most acceptable. It shall take its place by a photograph of the William Rufus monument in the Forest, which I have long possessed.

" The tree is a most superb specimen of the *quercus robur*, as I take it for granted that is the species. It looks to me like a gigantic hand, with strong wrist, hollow palm (slightly), and spreading fingers, a little confused and superabundant, but still suggestive enough to put the thought at once into my head, as it must have put it into many another.

" I do not think I have ever seen an American oak equal to this, though we have what we call the white oak, of large size and grand aspect. I have never seen the great pines or buttonwoods of



California and the Western States, but we know all about the former, as you do doubtless, through the numerous photographs.

"It pleases me to think that any of my writings have given you pleasure, and I know you will not be sorry to learn how much your pleasant token of remembrance has gratified me.—Believe me, dear Sir,

"Yours very truly,

"OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES."

### Yet another Postman Poet.

POSTMEN POETS, formerly supposed to be objects of extreme rarity, are now discovered annually in batches, like minor planets. The latest addition to our list is Mr. George Dinsdale, of Malton, Yorks., who, though not now in the service, was employed for many years first as a postman at Malton, and afterwards as a stamper at Liverpool. He was born in 1818, and still enjoys tolerable health and spirits. The circumstances under which he left the service are noteworthy. At that time the facilities for the sale of penny stamps were comparatively limited, and the postmen were allowed to collect unstamped letters from the public, with cash to pay for the postage, the idea being that on reaching the office they would buy the requisite stamps and affix them to the letters. Instead of doing so, they affixed used stamps removed from old letters, thus defrauding the revenue of its pennies. This practice, which, it appears, was deplorably extensive, came under the observation of Mr. Dinsdale, who brought it under the notice of the postmaster, Mr. Banning, and at the same time resigned his situation. He has written a number of poems, in which the late Charles Kingsley found "a hearty and cheerful tone of manliness." Here, for instance, is the opening of his Christmas greeting to the people of Malton :

I'm your postman, every day  
 Serving you throughout the year ;  
 Only getting little pay  
 (And of increase there's no fear)—  
 Never mind, I'll move along,  
 Cheerfully I'll sing my song—  
 "Health and happiness to all !  
 Sweet content  
 Occupy each heart and mind !  
 Kindness may you ever find  
 Time well spent."

This was written by Mr. Dinsdale thirty years ago, and now it is our turn. For Christmas greetings it will be too late by the time this number appears, but we feel sure that all our readers will join with us in wishing Mr. Dinsdale a Happy New Year.



J. MAUNDER.

### Bravery.

WE have much pleasure in giving the portrait of Mr. Maunder, postman of Truro, who on the 15th May last, at the risk of his own life, saved a child from drowning. Those who witnessed the rescue describe it as a very gallant one, and we are glad to learn that the Postmaster-General has expressed his appreciation of Mr. Maunder's conduct, and that the Mayor of Truro, on the 8th October last, presented him with a well-filled purse and a testimonial from the Royal Humane Society. This is the third life that Mr. Maunder has been instrumental in saving.

\* \* \*

ON the 3rd June last, Charles Knight, telegraph messenger, Twickenham, rescued a boy from drowning in the river Thames, and having with much difficulty brought him to land helped to restore him to consciousness. Knight has been highly commended for his bravery and promptitude, and not long since was presented by Mr. Rushton, in the presence of members of the staff of the Twickenham and Richmond offices, with a testimonial from the Royal Humane Society.

### The Rowland Hill Fund.

THE Annual Meeting of this fund at the Mansion House was useful as giving the new Lord Mayor his first opportunity of making his appearance at a non-prandial function. This fact served to bring together, as usual, a number of city men—the vast majority of whom do not contribute in any way to the fund; while the hour at which the meeting was held effectually precluded all but a very few post office subscribers from attending. The usual trite remarks were once more made to do duty, but the increase of subscriptions from the Department—an increase which the discouraging circumstances render doubly creditable—served somewhat to modify the usual

unctuous sneers that irresponsible frivolity annually levels at our stinginess in not contributing more liberally to a fund which, however good its objects may be, is managed in a way that is not likely to win very enthusiastic support from our colleagues.

We went so fully into the matter last year that it is unnecessary here to repeat what we said, so we will merely add that the figures now stand as follows:—

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Amount invested	£17,760	£36,890	£37,801	£38,522	£39,022
Income from do.	668	939	1,369	1,401	1,408
Subscribers	1,106	916	880	771	878
Total income	1,774	1,855	2,249	2,172	2,286
Amount spent in } relief ... }	1,051	1,422	1,320	1,504	1,611

### A few Plain Words by the Editor.

FROM time to time we are favoured by our provincial friends with their candid opinions of us and our bantling. These opinions arrive in much augmented numbers at this season of the year, and we have to thank many subscribers who kindly take the opportunity afforded by the annual payment of cash to write us a word of encouragement. If, in some cases, we have not replied personally to such communications we hope that the writers of them will understand nevertheless that we are very grateful to them. Other communications are of a more critical character, and one such, which was printed by us in our last number, appears to have been written by one who believes that our magazine was intended solely for postal men. Indeed, the writer has since been at some pains to try and convince us that very few telegraph men ever read the magazine at all. The real fact is that there are still a great many offices where, in spite of our efforts, we have few or no subscribers, and in those offices no doubt it is true that we get no help from the telegraph men; but then, in such places, we get none from postal men either. At the same time, whatever may be the case at individual offices we are glad to be able to say that generally speaking we get very strong support indeed from telegraph men of all ranks in town and country, though we have no means of knowing the exact proportion of subscribers which belong to each branch of the service.

As a pendant to this complaint of a telegraph man we have received one or two letters which tend to show that, in the opinion of the writers, we give too much attention to telegraph matters.

An agent, in announcing a diminution in the number of subscriptions for the new volume from his office, informs us that this is entirely due to the prominence given to telegraph matters during the past year, and he assures us that, unless we reform, few, if any, men on the postal side of his office will subscribe in 1896. "Stale telegraph news" is the description which another correspondent uses to connote our poor little quarterly. Yet another complains that after giving the

photographs of some postmasters we have had the audacity to give some telegraph superintendents, ignoring the fact that chief clerks come next to postmasters in the official hierarchy! After a good deal more to the same effect we read that he never really cared for the magazine, and only took it in to please our agent. Had he said this at first he need not have troubled to write the rest.

Taking these letters as a whole it is clear that we have offended some extreme partisans on both postal and telegraph sides. This we must put up with so long as we stand in the good opinion of moderate men of each party. When we cease to do that subscriptions will cease to come in, and we shall not be sorry to terminate the life of a publication which has brought us more than one official kick without even the faintest suspicion of compensation in the shape of official halfpence.

\* \* \*

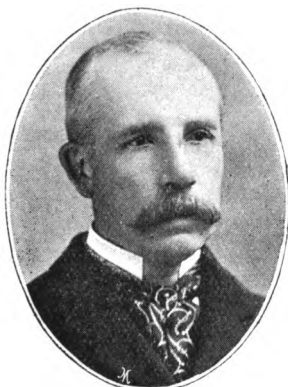
**A**S some of our readers have taken offence at what Mr. Bennett wrote in our July number on the subject of the meeting of the Benevolent Society at Liverpool, and as a few have withdrawn their support from us under the impression that by doing so they are in some way showing their resentment at his conduct, we think it right to assure our readers that Mr. Bennett has not, for the last two years at least, had anything to do with the editing of this publication, though he has been, and we hope will long continue to be, one of the most frequent and most valued of its contributors. *Mr. Bennett's responsibility is strictly limited to the interesting and amusing articles which appear over his name or his initials, but he has taken no part in directing the general policy of the magazine; indeed, he has more than once protested earnestly against the course which we have pursued.*

We have frequently been urged by Mr. Bennett to make this statement, but have hitherto for various reasons refrained from doing so. In printing it now we feel constrained to add that these columns are always open to those who desire to answer any statement which may have been made therein, and that if any who were present at the Liverpool meeting are of opinion that the meeting *was* creditably conducted and that the delegates did *not* behave like naughty children their proper course is to write and say so, instead of withdrawing their support from a magazine whose Editor knows nothing at all personally of the Benevolent Society, and whose feelings towards it just now are perhaps best expressed by Mercutio's words "A plague o' both your houses."

THE HONORARY EDITOR.

### Odds and Ends.

**P**RIZE PUZZLE No. 5.—Translate the following report of a certain postmaster into English:—"Snooks is certainly very regretful for his neglect, he gives very little concern in such irregularities being attentive and painstaking in his duties, the verbal observations, *i.e.*, caution on the resultant consequence of the misconstruction of the intended record may perhaps suffice to meet the case in regard to his ultimate liability in the matter."



**J. MANSON**  
*(Asst.-Controller M.O.O.).*



**W. F. EVANS**  
*(Money Order Office).*



**DR. A. H. WILSON**  
*(Medical Officer-in-Chief).*



**C. H. BUNDY**  
*(Secretary's Office).*



**J. A. J. HOUSDEN**  
*(Savings Bank).*



**G. C. STURGEON**  
*(Postmaster, Norwich).*



**A. BELCHER**  
*(Savings Bank).*

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THEY get some old letters to deal with in the Returned Letter Office sometimes. Recently one came back from America which had been posted in 1864, addressed to a ship's surgeon in the care of a New York firm. The surgeon was found by the aid of the Medical Directory and the letter delivered to him. He then stated that the writer of the letter had been dead for 25 years, and that the reason why he did not get the letter in New York was that, owing to a series of accidents, his ship never called there at all!

\* \* \*

IN the recently issued blue book on British Central Africa, Commissioner Johnston gives some particulars of the postal service, though he tells us little beyond what Mr. Harry has already stated in these columns. There are, it seems, 20 post offices, and the number of letters delivered is about 63,000 per annum. Formerly mails with England were exchanged through Zanzibar, but now all letters from and to England are conveyed direct to Chinde, which prevents delay and damage to the correspondence.

\* \* \*

SOMEONE has recently been good enough to send us a copy of *Scottish Nights*, from which we learn that Mr. J. Knox Christie, the head stamper in the Glasgow office, is the author of a volume of poems entitled "Many Moods in Many Measures." Perhaps some one will send us a copy as we have not seen it.

\* \* \*

ALTHOUGH the number of First Division Clerks in the Secretary's Office is still considerably in excess of the authorised number, yet it has been felt that, as nearly nine years have elapsed since an appointment was made, something must be done unless it was desired that the last but one should be old enough to be the father of the last. It has therefore been decided to fill up one vacancy in every three, and a beginning of this policy has been made by the appointment of Mr. H. F. McClintock, an old Wykehamist from New College, Oxford.

\* \* \*

A FEW years ago (writes a correspondent at the Cape) a tired foot traveller called here for "his money." I enquired his name, but had neither letter nor advice in his favour.

I then informed him when the next mail would be in from the town from whence, as he stated, his money would come. On the arrival of next mail neither letter nor advice came to hand. He said he was compelled to wait, as he had no money to proceed with. On his calling again, I enquired if he had not made some mistake in the name of the office, but he was certain of it. After he had waited five days I requested him to let me see the name of the office stated by the remitter. He then handed me the letter, when out rolled three postal notes, which I cashed to his great comfort. He did not know what they were.

"THERE is a sovereign in the centre of this card," writes a man in Buenos Ayres to his poor old mother in the south of Ireland. "I have left it a little exposed so as you may know what it is. I hope it will arrive safe as it will be much handier for you than a post office order, besides no one will now know what you got except your own people. I would send you more only under the circumstances I have already explained in reference with the money exchange. I paid for this sovereign ten dollars. Twelve months ago I could buy one for five dollars."

This incident brings graphically before us the effect of the present great depreciation of silver.

\* \* \*

A GENTLEMAN wishing to obtain a Sub-Postmastership for a friend of his, wrote to the Secretary as follows:—

"I recommend Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ as Postmaster of \_\_\_\_\_ as he has backed horses so many years he will know how to spell them right, which it means a lot to me, always sending tips and such.

Yours, &c."

\* \* \*

MR. J. A. KEMPE, the Principal Clerk of the branch of the Treasury which deals with Post Office work, has been appointed Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Customs. Mr. Kempe is to be heartily congratulated, and we hope that his successor, Mr. G. H. Murray, C.B., will keep up the traditions of sympathetic and kindly dealing with our Department which Mr. Kempe did so much to foster.

\* \* \*

WE congratulate Mr. J. C. Lamb, C.M.G., on being made a Companion of the Bath, an honour which has been well earned by untiring and well-directed zeal for telegraph improvement, as well as by his services on the Royal Commission on coast communications.

\* \* \*

WE understand that the 25th anniversary of the acquisition of the telegraphs by the State will be celebrated by means of a dinner on the 28th inst., at which it is expected that many notabilities will be present.

\* \* \*

A NEW TUBE.—"Hullo!" said Postal Smith, as he turned into Cheapside on his way to a modest Cyprian lunch with Telegraph Jones, "What are they doing here?"

"Oh! only putting down a tube to the Savings Bank."

"Where from?"

"Sweeting's."

"What for?"

"Why! to pump stout of course."

"But where is the engine?"

"They don't want one! Think of the suction of seven hundred men at the other end!"



## Answers to Correspondents.

CAPE COLONY.—We have received an interesting letter from “An Old C. O. & M. D. Y.” who says:—

“About the year 1864 Miss Oppenheim, of the L.D.T. Co., 101, Cannon Street, founded a society called the “Telegraph Clerks’ Provident Fund.” As I was then a clerk at C.O., I joined the society, but afterwards, when I was employed in the Manchester department, I discontinued my subscription and lost sight of the movement. Can you kindly inform me if the society is still in existence, and if so the name and address of the secretary, as I wish to ask if I may again become a member?”

“As I have so often wished to thank you for our magazine I hope I may do so now. I do not think at home you can realize what a treasure it must be to the old home servants out here. Speaking for myself I am sure you cannot. Life is so calm, so uneventful, in some parts of this colony. Many times I have intended to convey my thanks to Edward Bennett for the great pleasure his “Civil Service Combination” and the “Alleged Dullness of Official Life” have given us. From our magazine lists I received the first notice of my sister’s retirement.”

We fear that we are not in a position to give our correspondent any information about a society which in all probability ceased to exist when the telegraphs were taken over by the State in 1870; but if any of our readers know anything about it perhaps they will communicate with us. We need hardly say that we are exceedingly gratified to hear how much our efforts to interest and amuse our readers are appreciated in South Africa, and we only wish that they were as much appreciated at home. Cicero once remarked that the exclamation “I am a Roman citizen” was in itself sufficient to awe savage tribes in the uttermost parts of the earth, and this simple letter from an Englishwoman in the far off interior of the Dark Continent reminds us that the world is the home of the Englishman, and that to be a British citizen is to be the sharer in privileges such as the Roman could never claim, and the inheritor of a language and of institutions which have girdled the world with empire.

## Subscriptions from Abroad.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions:—Bermuda, Canada (7), Malta, New South Wales (84), Penang Odense (Denmark), Helsingborg, Falun, Brisbane (30), Hong Kong, Cologne. Also the following from New Zealand:—Auckland (7), Christchurch (6), Dunedin (9), Greymouth (10), Napier (3), Oamaru (3), Wanganui (2), Blenheim (4).

We have also received orders from the Cape and Canada, the amounts of which are still to come.

# Promotions.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sec.'s Office ...	*Langridge, A. K.	2nd Cl. Cl. Supply. Est.	Copyist, '83; 3rd Cl. Cl., 1894
„ (Intelligence Bch.)	Jones, W. H. ...	News Distributor ...	S.C. & T., Warwick, '81; Leamington Spa, '83
„	Bray, J. S....	„ „	S.C. & T., Stranraer, '82; 2nd Cl. Cn. & T., W.D.O., 1891
„	Sorrell, E. ...	„ „	2nd Cl. T., T.S., 1886
„	Webber, E. J. ...	„ „	2nd Cl. T., T.S., 1886
„	Thorneloe, H. J. N.	„ „	S.C. & T., Moreton-in-Marsh, 1888
C.E.B. ...	Bunt, F. E. ...	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., 1867; G.P.O. (Portsmouth), 1870; 3rd Cl. Cl., C.E.B., 1886
Registry†	Hendy, J. G. ...	1st Cl. Pr. Kr. ...	1871; As., I.B., '73; 2nd Cl. As., M.L.B., '79; 1st Cl., '84; 2nd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, '84
„	Sherwin, T. ...	„	1871; Ju. Sr., '73; 2nd Cl. As., M.L.B., '81; 3rd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, '84; 2nd Cl., '86
„	Wilson, J. G. ...	2nd „	1875; 2nd Cl. Pr. Kr., S.B., '76; 3rd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, 1884
„	Harmer, D. W. ..	„	1877; 2nd Cl. Pr. Kr., M.O.O., '78; 3rd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, '84
„	Smeaton, J. M....	„	1878; 2nd Cl. Pr. Kr., M.O.O., '78; 3rd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, '84
„	Otten, C. H. ...	„	2nd Cl. Tel., T.S., '80; 3rd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, 1885
„	Stubbs, S. R. ...	„	T.S., '79; Resigned, '80; 2nd Cl. Tel., T.S., '80; 3rd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, 1885
„	Cowell, F. J. ...	3rd „	3rd Cl. Sr., G.P.O., '86; 2nd Cl., Cir. Off., '87

\*Corrected entry in place of that in October issue.

†Omitted from October issue.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Registry	Hinde, A. F.	3rd Cl. Pr. Kr.	Pn., E.C., '87; 2nd Cl. Sr., W.D.O., '88; Cir. Off., 1891
"	Mears, E. J.	"	1880; Ju. S. and Tr., R.A.G.O., '83; 2nd Cl., 1883
"	Jenkins, T.	"	1880; Ju. Sr. and Tr., R.A.G.O., '83; 2nd Cl., 1885
"	Henderson, W. J. W.	"	1881; Ju. Sr. and Tr., R.A.G.O., '85; 2nd Cl., 1887
Sur. Dept.	Longland, R. M.	As. Sur., 2nd Cl.	Cl., Lr. Div., S.B., '81; Cl., C.E.B., 1886
"	Kemp, H.	" "	Cl., Lr. Div., R.A.G.O., 1885
E. in C.O.	Webster, J.	2nd Cl. En.	T., Leeds, '75 to '80; S.C. & T., Leeds, '85; Ju. Cl., E. in C.O., '85
"	Comport, G. H., Junr.	"	T., L'pool, '84; Ju. Cl., E. in C.O., 1887; Draughtsman & Short-hand Writer, 1892
"	Tinsley, W. S.	2nd Cl. Ju. Cl.	2nd Cl. T., Hull, 1885
"	Sorrell, J. E. A.	R.C. (Lr. Sec.)	T., T.S., '84; R.C., Lr. Sec. E. Dean, 1894
"	Goodman, A.	1st Cl. Ju. Cl.	T., Cork, '90; 2nd Cl. Ju. Cl., E. in C.O., '91
"	Hammond, E. J.	2nd "	T., Shrewsbury, 1887
Contr. of Stores (Tels.)	Watkins, W. B.	2nd Cl. Ex.	T., N.W.D.O., '71; Ju. Cl., C. of S.O., '81; 1st Cl. Cl., 1888
"	Barnes, C. L.	"	T., W.C.D.O., '75; Ju. Cl., C. of S.O., '84; Sen. Cl., 1890
"	Clegg, A.	"	1878; 2nd Cl. As., M.L.B., '80; 3rd Cl. Pr. Kr., Registry, '84; Ju. Cl., C. of S.O., '92
"	Toby, E. G.	"	T., C.T.O., '85; Ju. Cl., C. of S.O., 1893
"	Cody, F.	"	Boy Copyist, '78; Copyist, '81; As. Cl., C. of S.O., 1893
"	Shackleton, F.	"	T., Leeds, 1882
Ret. Letter Off.	Schofield, J. W.	"	Customs, '83; As. of Excise, '86; Cl., Lr. Div., R.A.G.O., '88; Cl., R.L.O., 1892
"	Jacobs, W. J.	1st Cl. As.	1871; 2nd Cl. Sr., '73; 2nd Cl. As., R.L.O., '85
M.O.O.	Fox, G.	P.C.	C.D., '63; M.O.O., '63; 1st Cl. Cl., 1882
"	White, F. J.	1st Cl. Cl.	Boy Cl., '72; Est., '74; Hr. Gr., 2nd Div., '90
R.A.G.O.	Nye, G. W.	Hr. Grade, 2nd Div.	M.O.O., '74; R.A.G.O., 1894

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
C.T.O. ... ..	Hill, J. T. ...	As. Contr. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., 1851; G.P.O., '70; As. Contr. (Lr. Scale), 1889
" ... ..	Samson, A. A. ...	2nd Cl. As. Sup. ...	1870; Senr. T., 1886
" ... ..	Adams, G....	Senr. T. ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '73; 1st Cl., 1885
" ... ..	Belsten, C. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1882
" ... ..	Strank, W. H. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
" ... ..	Pritchard, A. T. .	" (late Sub. Tel. Co.)	S.C. & T., Dover, '89; 2nd Cl. T., C.T.O., 1893
" ... ..	Miss A. Hilton ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
" ... ..	" E. D. Hoyle	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
" ... ..	" A. E. Shipley	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
" ... ..	" C. L. Sydney	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
" ... ..	" E. M. Cum- mins	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
L.P.S.D. (Contr. Off.)	Constable, O. H.	1st Cl. Appar. Ex. .	C.D., '71; 2nd Cl. Ap. Ex., 1882
" "	Gooch, A. M. ...	2nd "	Boy Sr., Cir. Off., '73; 2nd Cl., '76; 1st Cl., 1881
" "	Thomas, E. B....	" "	Boy Sr., Cir. Off., '76; 2nd Cl., '80; 1st Cl., 1888
" "	Willey, H. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	S.W.D.O., '90; 2nd Cl., Cir. Off., '90; Contr. Off., 1892
L.P.S.D. (Circn. Off.)	Hine, G. ... ..	As. Sup. ... ..	Mag. Tel. Co., 1868; G.P.O., '70; R.A.G.O., '70; 3rd Cl. Cl., '78; C.O., L.P.S.D., '87; 2nd Cl. Cl., 1890
" "	Nicholson, F. L. .	1st Cl. Cl. (Stg. Off.)	Sr., '76; 1st Cl., '86; 1st Cl. Wr. As., Contr. Off., 1887; Cl., 1891
" "	Gould, J. ... ..	" "	S.C. & T., Taunton, '78; Cl., Contr. Off., L.P.S.D., 1891
" "	Barrow, H. ...	1st Cl. O. ... ..	1874; 2nd Cl. Sr., I.B., 1877; 1st Cl., 1885
" "	Salmon, A. J. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1886
" "	Carlin, J. R. ...	" ... ..	1874; 2nd Cl. Sr., 1886
" "	Smithson, A. E. .	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '76; 2nd Cl. Pn., 1880; 2nd Cl. Sr., 1885
" "	Gibbs, F. G. ...	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '81; 2nd Cl., '84
" "	Cable, E. ... ..	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '81; 2nd Cl., '84
" "	Bryant, W. J. ...	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '81; 2nd Cl., '84
E.C.D.O. ... ..	Miss A. Honnor...	2nd Cl. Bch. Off. Super.	E. T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; As. Sup., '81; Sup. 1887; 3rd Cl. 1893
" ... ..	" E. V. Lean...	2nd Cl. Bch. Off. Super.	E. T. Co., '70; G.P.O., '70; As. Sup., '85; 4th Cl., '93; 3rd Cl. '94

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
E.C.D.O.	Miss T. Hawke...	3rd Cl. Bch. Off. Super.	1871; As. Sup., '90; 4th Cl. '93
"	" E. H. Ulyatt	4th Cl. Bch. Off. Super.	1874; 1st Cl. T., '83
"	" A. A. Ulyatt	4th Cl. Bch. Off. Super.	1875; 1st Cl. Cm. & T., '83
"	" A.F. Bushnell	1st Cl. Cm. & T.	2nd Cl., '84
"	" E. H. Killip	"	2nd Cl., '83
"	" M. J. Darby	"	2nd Cl., '84
"	" A.M. Hodges	"	2nd Cl., '84
"	" E. L. Walker	"	2nd Cl., '84
"	Clark, W. H.	Senr. Cm. & T.	1873
"	Crowfoot, C. J.	1st Cl. Cm. & T.	2nd Cl., '85
"	Coppin, F. C.	"	2nd Cl., '86
"	Midgley, J. S.	"	2nd Cl., '85
W.C.D.O.	Naylor, E. G.	In. ...	1865; 2nd Cl. O., '79; 1st Cl., '88
"	Fox, H. M.	1st Cl. Sr.	Boy Sr., '84; 3rd Cl., '86; 2nd Cl., '88
"	Smith, T. C.	"	1st Cl. Pn., '74; 2nd Cl. Sr., '88
"	Westmarland, W.	"	1884; 2nd Cl. Sr., W.C., '88; W.D.O., '91
"	Craven, W. M.	1st Cl. Cm. & T.	2nd Cl., '81
W.D.O.	Pinnock, W. T.	1st Cl. O.	Boy Sr., '70; 2nd Cl., '73; 2nd Cl. O., '87
"	French, F. E.	2nd Cl. O.	Boy Sr., '76; 2nd Cl., '80; 1st Cl., '90
"	Cooper, H. J.	1st Cl. Cm. & T.	Boy Sr., '79; 2nd Cl., '83; 2nd Cl. Cm. & T., '85
"	Grove, J. W.	1st Cl. Sr.	Boy Sr., '84; 3rd Cl., '86; 2nd Cl., S.W.D.O., '88
"	Houghton, E. W.	"	Boy Sr., '84; 3rd Cl., Pad., '86; 2nd Cl., S.W., '88
S.W.D.O.	Bradford, M.	Senr. Cm. & T.	2nd Cl., '70; 1st Cl., '84
"	Turnage, E. M.	1st Cl. Cm. & T.	2nd Cl., '85
S.E.D.O.	Killeen, P.	In. ...	1859; O., '75; 1st Cl., '85
"	Skues, J.	"	1865; O., '77; 1st Cl., '85
"	Brown, W. G.	2nd Cl. O.	1874; Head Pn., '92
"	Beacham, C. A.	"	1876; Head Pn., '92
"	Douglas, J. J.	1st Cl. Sr.	Boy Sr., '85; 3rd Cl., '86; 2nd Cl., S.W., '88
"	Carpenter, W. J.	"	Boy Sr., '85; 3rd Cl., Pad., '86; 2nd Cl., S.W., '88
"	Osborn, W.	"	Boy Sr., '83; 3rd Cl., '86; 2nd Cl. (News Bch.), '87; S.E., '88
"	Manser, J.	"	Boy Sr., '82; Pn., E., '84; 1st Cl., '86; 2nd Cl. Sr., S.E., '88
Paddington	Gandon, T.	In. ...	1857; Sr., '61; Cm., '67; O., '72

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Paddington ...	Baker, A. J. ...	1st Cl. O. ...	1872 ; Writg. As., '81 ; 2nd Cl. O., '89
" ...	Finter, G. ...	" ...	1880 ; 2nd Cl. Sr., '83 ; Writg. As., '89 ; 1st Cl. Sr., '90 ; 2nd Cl. O., '91
N.W.D.O. ...	Eldridge, T. ...	In. ...	1856 ; 2nd Cl. O., '76 ; 1st Cl., '88
" ...	Hale, A. J. G. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	Boy Sr., '85 ; 3rd Cl., '86 ; 2nd Cl. (News- Bch.), '88 ; N.W.D.O., '88
" ...	Blackborrow, H.	1st Cl. O. ...	1860 ; Lobby Off., '85 ; 2nd Cl. O., '87
" ...	Camp, W....	" ...	1877 ; 2nd Cl. Sr., '81 ; 2nd Cl. O., '88
" ...	Miss E. E. Bult...	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	2nd Cl., '85
N.D.O. ...	Clarke, B. E. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	1876 ; 2nd Cl. Sr., E., '88 ; S.E., '92
" ...	Jones, A. J. ...	" ...	Boy Sr., '73 ; Pn., Pad., '74 ; 2nd Cl. Sr., S.W. D.O., '88
E.D.O. ...	Champ, C. E. ...	" ...	3rd Cl. Sr., '86 ; 2nd Cl., '88
" ...	Newman, M. ...	" ...	Pn., W.C.D.O., '85 ; Sr., 2nd Cl., '88 ; N.D.O., '91
Norwood... ..	Watts, J. ...	2nd Cl. O. ...	Boy Sr., '78 ; 2nd Cl., '82 ; 1st Cl., '90
" ...	Reynolds, W. T.	" ...	1868 ; Head Pn., '74

### PROVINCES—ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birmingham ...	Franklin, C. F. ...	As. Sup., 1st Cl. (P.)	1875 ; S.C. & T., '76 ; Cl. (P.), '85 ; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '92.
" ...	Knowles, T. B....	Sup. (T.) ...	Elec. T. Co., '56 ; G.P.O., '70 ; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '86 ; 1st Cl., '90.
" ...	Hides, H. ...	As. Sup., 1st Cl. (T.)	Elec. T. Co., '56 ; G.P.O., '70 ; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '90.
" ...	Machin, F. ...	" 2nd Cl. (T.)	Elec. T. Co., '61 ; G.P.O., '70 ; Cl., '87.
" ...	Wilkes, A....	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '83.
Bradford, Yks.	Scott, W. ...	Cl. (P.) ...	2nd Cl. S.C., '76 ; 1st Cl., '85.
" ...	Scott, R. ...	1st Cl., S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '84.
Bristol ...	Thompson, W. A.	" ...	1880 ; 2nd Cl. S.C. '81.
Cardiff ...	Longford, J. ...	As. Sup. (T.)...	Stroud, '68 ; T., Cardiff, '71 ; Cl., '87.
" ...	Bullock, C. W....	C. (T.) ...	Bury St. Edmund's, '72 ; T. Cardiff, '76.
" ...	Good, B. E. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '85.
" ...	Miss S. A. J. Baiss	Super. ...	2nd Cl. T., '76 ; 1st Cl., '83.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Cardiff ... ..	Miss E. H. Farrell	1st Cl. Tel. ... ..	2nd Cl., '88.
Carlisle ... ..	,, L.A. Webster	... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
Chester ... ..	Kershaw, J. ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	U.K.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70.
Crewe ... ..	Wilson, T. ... ..	As. Sup. ... ..	S.C., '71; Cl., '82.
,, ... ..	Vaughan, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	1871; S.C. and T., '74; Cl., '89.
Croydon ... ..	Bennett, J. R. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	S.C. and T., '73.
Gainsborough ...	Scott, E. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C. and T., '74.
Hastings ... ..	Miss E. M. Beck	1st Cl. S. C. and T.	S.C. and T., '90.
Huddersfield ...	Packer, H. ... ..	As. Sup. (P.) ... ..	1873; Cl., '74.
Hull ... ..	Stubbs, R. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '80.
Kendal ... ..	Winn, P. H. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	S.C. and T., '79.
Leamington Spa	Crick, H. F. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C. and T., '75.
Leeds ... ..	Johnson, A. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '79; 1st Cl., '87.
,, ... ..	Smith, B. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Miss A. Morfitt ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
Liverpool ... ..	Taylor, J. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '79; 1st Cl., '86.
,, ... ..	West, R. W. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Saunders, J. E. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	Rhyl, '80; 2nd Cl. T., Liverpool, '82.
,, ... ..	Miss M. E. Smith	Super. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70.
,, ... ..	,, A. B. Bingham	As. Super. ... ..	1874.
,, ... ..	Miss E. A. Hodgkinson	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Miss A. J. Clingan	1st Cl. Cm. and Ret.	2nd Cl. T., '85; 2nd Cl. Cm. and Ret., '87.
Manchester ... ..	Davey, J. ... ..	Super. (P.) ... ..	Cl. 60; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '74; 1st Cl., '90.
,, ... ..	Barnes, J. D. D.	1st Cl. As. Super. (P.)	S.C., '71; Cl., '74; As. Sup., 2nd Cl., '90.
,, ... ..	Abbott, T. D. ... ..	2nd Cl. As. Sup. (P.)	Cl., '59.
,, ... ..	Renshaw, S. B. ...	,, ... ..	Sr., '67; S.C., '71; Cl., '77.
,, ... ..	Rothwell, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C., '72; Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Roberts, A. T. ...	,, ... ..	S.C., '75; Cl., '86.
,, ... ..	Mills, J. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '75; 1st Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Rodway, H. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C. Newcastle Staff, '74; 2nd Cl. Manchestr, '78; 1st Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Wilkinson, R. S.	,, ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '77; 1st Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Maystre, C. E. ...	,, ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '79; 1st Cl., '86.
,, ... ..	Nash, J. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1881; 2nd Cl. S.C., '84.
,, ... ..	George, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Fraser, D. R. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Gerrard, H. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Halton, H. E. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Rothwell, C. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Jackman, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Manchester	O'Neil, C. E.	1st Cl. S.C.	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Stansfield, G. H.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Jameson, A. C.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Moorehouse, F. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Marsh, R.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Ogden, A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Lees, A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Mayoh, J. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Swettenham, J. A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Hilton, E. J.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Parker, T.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Blomerley, W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Pinder, W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Blakeley, T.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Powell, D.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Hope, J. H.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Conolly, R. H.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Starling, F. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Turner, F.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Walker, C.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Kenyon, T.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Wolstenholme, W. A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Miss A. E. Jacob.	Asst. Super.	1879
"	" L. Mills	"	1879
"	Mrs. F. Sugden (née Butler)	"	Cl. M'chester, '79; Resg., '82; 2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '83; 1st Cl., '84
"	Miss M. Langdon	"	2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '79; 1st Cl., '85
"	" E. Mellor	"	2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '83; 1st Cl., '88
"	" B. A. Law	1st Cl. Cm. & Ret.	2nd Cl., 1888
"	" L. Webster	"	2nd Cl., 1888
"	" C. A. Tunstall	"	2nd Cl. T., M'chester, '86; 2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '89
"	" A. Stanley	1st Cl. Tel.	2nd Cl., 1885
"	" M. Long	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	" E. Ingham	"	2nd Cl., 1885
Newark	Thompson, W.	Ch. Cl.	S.C. & T., '82; Cl., '90
"	Wilkins, T.	Cl.	S.C. & T., 1857
N'castle-on-T.	Davison, R. L.	1st Cl. T.	2nd Cl., 1882
"	Miss M. B. Wake	"	2nd Cl., 1885
Nottingham	Bateman, C.	Cl. (T.)	Elec. Tel. Co., '67; G.P.O. 1870
"	Woolfitt, A.	1st Cl. T.	2nd Cl., 1879
"	Snowdin, W.	"	2nd Cl., 1881
"	Crane, F. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1881
"	Thornton, W. J.	"	2nd Cl., 1882
"	Miss H. E. Part-ridge	"	2nd Cl., 1888
Oldham	Butterworth, J. W.	As. Sup.	S.C., '71; Cl., '85
"	Tattersall, J.	Cl.	S.C. & T., 1881
Scarborough	Bowman, J. T.	Cl.	S.C. & T., 1885
Sheffield	Turner, E. R.	Ch. Cl.	2nd Cl. S.C., York, '74; 1st Cl., '80; Cl., '81; Ch. Cl., '87



OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Southampton ...	Kellaway, T. H.	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '81; 1st Cl., 1888
" ...	Witt, S. J. ....	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1890
Southend-on-Sea	Harding, H. H....	Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T., 1883
Stoke-on-Trent.	Oswald, M. C. M.	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '75; 1st Cl., '90
Swansea ... ..	Rees, W. ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '73; 1st Cl., '86
" ... ..	Miss S. P. Bold...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885
Torquay ... ..	Tucker, W. G. A.	As. Super. ... ..	S.C. & T., '70; Cl., '86
Wakefield ...	White, G. R. ...	In. of P.... ...	S.C. & T., 1885

## SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen ...	Miss B. Watson .	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885
Edinburgh (Secretary's Off.)..	Lenton, E. A. ...	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70; Acct.'s Off., '82; Sur. Genl.'s, '84; 2nd Div. Cl., '90; Hr. Grade, '93
"	Macmillan, J. ...	2nd Cl. Pr. Kr. ...	2nd Cl. T., L'pool, '90; Edin., '91
" (Acct.'s Off.)	Laing, J. ... ..	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	1867
" "	Miss J. W. T. Drummond	" ... ..	1876; Tel., '78; Cl., A.O., Edin., '78
" (Sur. Off.)	Ritchie, T....	Inspg. T. (Midland Dis.)	Supply. T., '77; 2nd Cl., '78; 1st Cl. '87
Glasgow ... ..	Reay, J. H. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1884
" ... ..	Alexander, J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1884
" ... ..	Miss J. Anderson	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885

## IRELAND.

Dublin (Sortg. Off.)	Stone, R. ... ..	As. Sup. 2nd Cl. ...	1865; Sr., '71; O., '89; Cl., '91
"	Dargan, T. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	Boy Sr., '75; Indoor As., '78; 2nd Cl. S.C., '78
"	Mullingan, A. A.	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '76; Indoor As., '80
"	Moffett, E. P. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Donovan, P. ...	1st Cl. Pr. Kr. ...	1874; Sr. & Tr., 2nd Cl., Acct.'s Off., '78; 1st Cl., '86; 2nd Cl. Pr. Kr., S.O., '86
Killarney ...	Royse, H. B. ...	Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., Limerick, '73; 1st Cl., '84; 1st Cl. T., '89
Limerick ... ..	Howard, A. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	Mag. Tel. Co., 1864; G.P.O., '70
" ... ..	O'Brien, J. A. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1888
Londonderry ...	Vincent, B....	Cl. (T.) ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '79; 1st Cl., '93
"	Gallagher, J. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
"	Baird, M. ... ..	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885

## Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
M.O.O. ... ..	De Fraine, P. W.	P.C. ... ..	1855; P.C., '82
S.B.D. ... ..	Miss H. C. Moll.	2nd Cl. Cl. ... ..	1894
C.T.O. ... ..	Simmons, W.T.H.	Senr. T. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., 1852; G.P.O., '70; Senr. T. '85
" ... ..	Hall, J. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1884
" ... ..	Miss E. A. Drew	" ... ..	1884
L.P.S.D. (Circ. Off.)	Bedloe, Tom ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	Boy Sr., '70; 2nd Cl., '72; 1st Cl., '76
"	Kemp, D. ... ..	" ... ..	1869
"	Howard, W. H. ...	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '81; 2nd Cl., '82; 1st Cl., '90
"	Errington, W. T.	2nd Cl. Sr. ... ..	Boy Sr., '83; 3rd Cl., '85; 2nd Cl., '86
"	Fitch, A. E. ...	" ... ..	S.C. & T., Gravesend, '91; 2nd Cl. Sr., Cir. Off., '92
" (Contr.'s Off.)	Parmenter, E. F.	App. Ex. ... ..	Mail Off., '58; As. App- 'Ex., '80; In., '84; App- Ex., '85
L. P.S.D., E.C.	Hollingsworth, J. B.	Ins.-in-Ch., Bch. Off.	Mag. Tel. Co., '53; G.P.O., '70; Super., '81
" "	Alexander, A. J.	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	1876; 1st Cl., '82
" N.D.O.	Hadrill, J. ... ..	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1866; 2nd Cl. Sr., '73; 1st Cl., '90
" E.D.O.	Bundey, A. G. ...	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '79; 2nd Cl., '82; 1st Cl., '90
Brighton ... ..	Cooke, C. H. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1864
Cambridge ... ..	Royall, J. W. ...	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl. T., L'pool, '86; Cambridge, '91
Carmarthen ... ..	Harvey, W. ...	S.C. & T. ... ..	T., '71; P. Cl., '76
Chatham ... ..	Moffett, C. J. ...	" ... ..	S.C. & T., Chatham, '86; Stafford, '91; Chat- ham, '91
Darlington ... ..	Wrightson, D. T.	As. Sup. (T.) ... ..	Mag. T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; As. Sup., '91
Devonport ... ..	Gilbert, C. P. ...	S.C. & T. ... ..	Plymouth, '74; T.S., '80; S.C. & T., D'nport, '84
Gloucester ... ..	Gough, A. T. ...	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1886
Godalming ... ..	Bantoft, S. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1887
Liverpool ... ..	Lewis, J. H. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1875; 1st Cl., '86
St. Austell ... ..	Guy, W. ... ..	Postmaster ... ..	1863
Wellington ... ..	Craddock, W. J.	S.C. & T. ... ..	1891
Weston-super- Mare	Wyatt, T. H. ...	" ... ..	1889
Woodford Green	Wadsworth, W. J.	" ... ..	1888
Edinburgh ... ..	Bennett, W. ...	Cl. (P.) ... ..	Jedburgh, '61; Edin., '63; O., '85; Cl., '91
Glasgow ... ..	Rainey, J. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '81; 2nd Cl. T., '84; 1st Cl., '88
Athlone ... ..	Connors, M. ...	S.C. & T. ... ..	1893
Belfast ... ..	O'Connor, J. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	Londonderry, '82; 2nd Cl. S.C., Belfast, '83; 1st Cl., '91

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Dublin ... ..	Casey, P. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	Pn., '59; 2nd Cl. Sr., '66; 1st Cl. S.C., '69
" ... ..	Durham, J. W. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1871; 1st Cl. T., '91
Kilkenny... ..	Meehan, M. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1889
Waterford ...	Russell, J. W. ...	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	Youghal, '72; Waterford, '77; 2nd Cl. T., '79

## *Postmasters Appointed.*

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Basingstoke ... ..	Young, C. J.... ..	Cl., Southampton, '66; As. Sup. (P.), '91
Belper ... ..	Chandler, R.... ..	Cl., Lynn, '74; 3rd Cl. S.C., Man- chester, '80; S.C. & T., Bletchley Stn., '80; Bedford, '81; Cl., '91
Berkeley ... ..	Miss M. M. Ford...	
Berwick ... ..	Franklin, J. G. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Ch. Cl., Peterboro', '91
Bilston ... ..	Chappell, W. F. ...	Mag. Tel. Co., '66; P.O., '70; 1st Cl. T., Hull, '81; Cl., '91
Colne ... ..	Goss, A. E. ... ..	S.B., Lond., '70; 2nd Cl. Sr., S.B., '73; 2nd Cl. As., R.L.O., '85; Pmr., Witham, '89
Dowlais ... ..	Owen, A. ... ..	S.C. & T., Llanelly, '79
Fakenham ... ..	Bradfield, W. R. ...	As., '77; S.C. & T., '92
Hawkhurst... ..	Twist, C. C. R. ...	S.C., L'pool, '71; 2nd Cl. T., '81; 1st Cl., '85; Pmr., Colne, '88
Lyndhurst, S.O. (Lymington)	Ford, J. G. ... ..	Newton Abbot, '70; Devonport, '74; Town Sub-Pmr. of Ford, Devonport, '79
Macclesfield ... ..	Crawley, H. C. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; 2nd Cl. T., C.T.O., '73; 1st Cl., '78; Sen. T., '86; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '90
Newquay, Cornwall ...	White, W. R. ... ..	Sub-Pmr., '72; Head Pmr., '93
North Shields ... ..	Smith, P. ... ..	Mag. Tel. Co., '63; P.O., Swansea, S.C. & T., '70; Cl., Newport, Mon., '86; Sup. (Tels.), '87
Stalybridge ... ..	Picking, S. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., Nottingham, '75; 1st Cl., '85; Cl., '91; As. Sup., '93
Tadcaster ... ..	Miss A. Shuffle- botham	S.C. & T., Newcastle, Staff., '88
Weymouth ... ..	Bogue, W. M. ... ..	Elec. & Intern'l Tel. Co., '63; G.P.O. (T.S.), '70; In., Sec.'s Off., '78
Laurencekirk ... ..	Miss I. M. Watt ...	S.C. & T., '92
Lochmaddy ... ..	Stuart, A. ... ..	S.C. & T., Buckie, '87; Thurso, '90
Stonehaven... ..	Robertson, J. D. ...	2nd Cl. T., Dundee, '72; 1st Cl., '85
Bantry... ..	Payne, W. J.... ..	S.C. & T., Killarney, '82

# Retirements.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sec.'s Office ..	†Brodie, C....	Staff Off. Sup. Est.	Univl. Priv. T. Co., '61; G. P. O., '70; S.O., '78; Staff Off., '93
R.A.G.O. (C.H.B.)	*Miss J. S. D. A. Fletcher	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	1885
„ (P.O.B.)	Miss M. E. Lake- man	„ ...	S.B., '79; P.O.B., '81
„ „	Miss E. Hum- phries	1st Cl. Cl. ...	2nd Cl., '82; 1st Cl., '90
S.B. ....	Scotchmer, F. H.	2nd Div. Cl....	Boy Cl., '72; 3rd Cl. Cl., '73; 2nd Cl., '85; Hr. Grade 2nd Div., '90
„ ...	*Miss A. Rush ...	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	C.H.B., '85; S.B., '85
C.T.O. ...	H. Smith ...	As. Contr. ...	Elec. T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70; 1st Cl. Cl. C.T.O., '71; As. Cont., '77; Hr. Scale, '89
L.P.S.D., E.C.	Champness, R.W.	1st Cl. Cm. and Tel.	1874
„	Miss E. M. Fow- ler	2nd Cl. Super. ...	Elec. T. Co., '61; G. P. O. Super., '81; 2nd Cl., '93
Circn. Office ...	Matthews, R. ...	As. Supt. ...	Cl., Liverpool, '51; I.O., '53; As. Sup. '85
„ ...	Corcoran, H. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	1866
„ ...	Bragg, C. ...	„ ...	1860
„ ...	Jordan, J. H. ...	2nd Cl. Sr. ...	Pn., '75; 2nd Cl. Sr. C.O., '85
W.D.O. ...	*Belcher, H. ...	„ ...	Boy Sr., '81; 3rd Cl., '86; 2nd Cl., '86
N.D.O. ...	Shambrook, A.T.	2nd Cl. O. ...	Pn., '68; Hd. Pn., '80; 2nd Cl. O., '93
„ ...	*Miss E. A. Adeney	2nd Cl. Cm. and Ret.	1887
E.D.O. ...	Bellett, J. ...	1st Cl. O. ...	1858; Sr., '67; As. O., '73; O., '74
Wandsworth ...	Sage, C. ...	2nd Cl. Overseer ...	1874; Hd. Pn., '82; 2nd Cl. O., '85

## PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Bath ...	Lyddon, W. C.	As. Sup. (P.)...	1854; Cl., '56; As. Sup., '91
Cardiff ...	*Miss M. J. Ed- wards	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '86
Croydon ...	Swift, T. ...	Cl. ...	1867
Folkestone ...	Hawkins, G. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	Cl., '59; Ch. Cl., '81
Gloucester ...	Wilson, J. G. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	Cl., '52; Ch. Cl., '81
Hastings ...	Purkis, H. D. ...	S. C. & T. ...	Boy Sr., '74; 2nd Cl., '77; 2nd Cl. Cm. & T., S.W., '88; 2nd Cl. S. C. & T., Hastings, '92

\* Awarded a Gratuity. † Retires under the provisions of the Order  
in Council of the 15th August, 1890.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Hull... ..	Moorey, J. K. ...	1st. Cl. T. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70
Liverpool ...	Stringfellow, J....	As. Sup., 1st Cl. (P.)	1855; 1st Cl., As. Sup., '90
Maidstone ..	Ransley, G. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1856
Manchester ...	*Mullock, J. H....	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1887
" ...	Knott, J. ...	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	1855
Peterboro' ...	*Aspittle, J. ...	S. C. ... ..	1892
Shrewsbury ...	*Jones, W. H. ...	S. C. 2nd Cl. ... ..	S. C. & T., Stafford, '85; Shrewsbury, '89
Southend - on - Sea	Kemp, A. G. ...	S. C. & T. ... ..	1882
Stockton - on - Tees	Welch, J. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1857
West Hartlepool	Hodgson, J. ...	Pmr. ... ..	Cl., Darlington, '53; Pmr., W. Hartlepool, '78.

## SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh ...	Robertson, G. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. ... ..	1873; Indoor As., '73; 2nd Cl. S., '77
Glasgow ...	*Miss J. P. Grieve	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1888

## IRELAND.

Belfast ...	Miss A. Maher ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1870
Dublin ...	Miss M. Brennan	As. Super. (T.) ...	T. Cl., Ulster Rly. Co., '66; British & Irish Mag. Tel. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; 3rd Cl. T., '71; 2nd Cl., '81; 1st Cl., '90; As. Sup., '91
" ...	Walpole, R. T....	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	T., Dub., '70; Londonderry, '70; 3rd Cl. T., Dub., '71; 2nd Cl., '76

\*Awarded a Gratuity.

## ABBREVIATIONS.

As., Assistant; Cl., Clerk; Cm., Counterman or Counterwoman; En., Engineer; Ex., Examiner; In., Inspector; Ju., Junior; Ms., Messenger; O., Overseer; P.C., Principal Clerk; Pn., Postman; Pmr., Postmaster; Pr. Kr., Paper Keeper; R.C., Relay Clerk; Ret., Returner; Sr., Sorter; S.C., Sorting Clerk; Sup., Superintendent or Superintending; Supr., Supervisor; Sur., Surveyor; T., Telegraphist; Tr., Tracer.

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We hope that those who so kindly act as agents for us in the Colonies will remember how much we need articles on postal and telegraph matters of general interest, as well as photographs of the leading officials and of places and scenes of postal and telegraphic interest. In sending such things we hope our friends will bear in mind that we do not want paragraphs merely in praise of individuals or of purely local interest. Those who study our pages can hardly fail to see what we do require. We would especially ask our friends in Canada and Queensland to help us in this way. We should also be very glad to receive portraits of the heads of the New Zealand administration, as well as of the Chief Postmasters of that Colony, and views of the General Post Office there.

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RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward ... ..	18	18	9	Printing, Binding, &c. ... ..	306	17	0
Subscriptions, &c. ... ..	465	17	8	Artist ... ..	16	6	6
Advertisements ... ..	12	1	6	Engraver ... ..	46	5	1
				Assistance ... ..	31	6	3
				Postage ... ..	65	5	0
				Type-Writer ... ..	22	17	0
				Miscellaneous ... ..	5	10	6
				Balance ... ..	2	10	7
	<u>£496 17 11</u>				<u>£496 17 11</u>		

*Examined and found correct,*

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WM. G. TRINDER (S.B.D.), } *Auditors.*

19th December, 1894.

F. J. BECKLEY,  
*Hon. Sec.*



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Postage ... ..	6		
Type-Writer ... ..			
Miscellaneous ... ..			
Balance ... ..			

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Paddington ...	Baker, A. J. ...	1st Cl. O. ...	1872; Writg. As., '81; 2nd Cl. O., '89
" ...	Finter, G. ...	" ...	1880; 2nd Cl. Sr., '83; Writg. As., '89; 1st Cl. Sr., '90; 2nd Cl. O., '91
N.W.D.O. ...	Eldridge, T. ...	In. ...	1856; 2nd Cl. O., '76; 1st Cl., '88
" ...	Hale, A. J. G. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	Boy Sr., '85; 3rd Cl., '86; 2nd Cl. (News Bch.), '88; N.W.D.O., '88
" ...	Blackborrow, H.	1st Cl. O. ...	1860; Lobby Off., '85; 2nd Cl. O., '87
" ...	Camp, W....	" ...	1877; 2nd Cl. Sr., '81; 2nd Cl. O., '88
" ...	Miss E. E. Bult...	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	2nd Cl., '85
N.D.O. ...	Clarke, B. E. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	1876; 2nd Cl. Sr., E., '88; S.E., '92
" ...	Jones, A. J. ...	" ...	Boy Sr., '73; Pn., Pad., '74; 2nd Cl. Sr., S.W. D.O., '88
E.D.O. ...	Champ, C. E. ...	" ...	3rd Cl. Sr., '86; 2nd Cl., '88
" ...	Newman, M. ...	" ...	Pn., W.C.D.O., '85; Sr., 2nd Cl., '88; N.D.O., '91
Norwood...	Watts, J. ...	2nd Cl. O. ...	Boy Sr., '78; 2nd Cl., '82; 1st Cl., '90
" ...	Reynolds, W. T.	" ...	1868; Head Pn., '74

### PROVINCES—ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birmingham ...	Franklin, C. F. ...	As. Sup., 1st Cl. (P.)	1875; S.C. & T., '76; Cl. (P.), '85; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '92.
" ...	Knowles, T. B....	Sup. (T.) ...	Elec. T. Co., '56; G.P.O., '70; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '86; 1st Cl., '90.
" ...	Hides, H. ...	As. Sup., 1st Cl. (T.)	Elec. T. Co., '56; G.P.O., '70; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '90.
" ...	Machin, F. ...	" 2nd Cl. (T.)	Elec. T. Co., '61; G.P.O., '70; Cl., '87.
" ...	Wilkes, A....	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '83.
Bradford, Yks.	Scott, W. ...	Cl. (P.) ...	2nd Cl. S.C., '76; 1st Cl., '85.
" ...	Scott, R. ...	1st Cl., S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '84.
Bristol ...	Thompson, W. A.	" ...	1880; 2nd Cl. S.C. '81.
Cardiff ...	Longford, J. ...	As. Sup. (T.)...	Stroud, '68; T., Cardiff, '71; Cl., '87.
" ...	Bullock, C. W....	C. (T.) ...	Bury St. Edmund's, '72; T. Cardiff, '76.
" ...	Good, B. E. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '85.
" ...	Miss S. A. J. Baiss	Super. ...	2nd Cl. T., '76; 1st Cl., '83.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Cardiff ... ..	Miss E. H. Farrell	1st Cl. Tel. ... ..	2nd Cl., '88.
Carlisle ... ..	,, L.A. Webster	... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
Chester ... ..	Kershaw, J. ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	U.K.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70.
Crewe ... ..	Wilson, T. ... ..	As. Sup. ... ..	S.C., '71; Cl., '82.
,, ... ..	Vaughan, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	1871; S.C. and T., '74; Cl., '89.
Croydon ... ..	Bennett, J. R. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	S.C. and T., '73.
Gainsborough ...	Scott, E. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C. and T., '74.
Hastings ... ..	Miss E. M. Beck	1st Cl. S. C. and T.	S.C. and T., '90.
Huddersfield ...	Packer, H. ... ..	As. Sup. (P.) ... ..	1873; Cl., '74.
Hull ... ..	Stubbs, R. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '80.
Kendal ... ..	Winn, P. H. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	S.C. and T., '79.
Leamington Spa	Crick, H. F. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C. and T., '75.
Leeds ... ..	Johnson, A. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '79; 1st Cl., '87.
,, ... ..	Smith, B. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Miss A. Morfitt ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
Liverpool ... ..	Taylor, J. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '79; 1st Cl., '86.
,, ... ..	West, R. W. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Saunders, J. E. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	Rhyl, '80; 2nd Cl. T., Liverpool, '82.
,, ... ..	Miss M. E. Smith	Super. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70.
,, ... ..	,, A. B. Bing- ham	As. Super. ... ..	1874.
,, ... ..	Miss E. A. Hodg- kinson	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Miss A. J. Clingan	1st Cl. Cm. and Ret.	2nd Cl. T., '85; 2nd Cl. Cm. and Ret., '87.
Manchester ... ..	Davey, J. ... ..	Super. (P.) ... ..	Cl. 60; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '74; 1st Cl., '90.
,, ... ..	Barnes, J. D. D.	1st Cl. As. Super. (P.)	S.C., '71; Cl., '74; As. Sup., 2nd Cl., '90.
,, ... ..	Abbott, T. D. ... ..	2nd Cl. As. Sup. (P.)	Cl., '59.
,, ... ..	Renshaw, S. B. ...	,, ... ..	Sr., '67; S.C., '71; Cl., '77.
,, ... ..	Rothwell, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C., '72; Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Roberts, A. T. ...	,, ... ..	S.C., '75; Cl., '86.
,, ... ..	Mills, J. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '75; 1st Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Rodway, H. ... ..	,, ... ..	S.C. Newcastle Staff, '74; 2nd Cl. Manchestr, '78; 1st Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Wilkinson, R. S.	,, ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '77; 1st Cl., '85.
,, ... ..	Maystre, C. E. ...	,, ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '79; 1st Cl., '86.
,, ... ..	Nash, J. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1881; 2nd Cl. S.C., '84.
,, ... ..	George, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Fraser, D. R. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Gerrard, H. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Halton, H. E. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Rothwell, C. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '84.
,, ... ..	Jackman, J. ... ..	,, ... ..	2nd Cl., '85.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Manchester	O'Neil, C. E.	1st Cl. S.C.	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Stansfield, G. H.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Jameson, A. C.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Moorehouse, F. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Marsh, R.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Ogden, A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Lees, A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Mayoh, J. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Swettenham, J. A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Hilton, E. J.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Parker, T.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Blomerley, W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Pinder, W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Blakeley, T.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Powell, D.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Hope, J. H.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Conolly, R. H.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Starling, F. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Turner, F.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Walker, C.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Kenyon, T.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Wolstenholme, W. A.	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Miss A. E. Jacob.	Asst. Super.	1879
"	" L. Mills	"	1879
"	Mrs. F. Sugden (née Butler)	"	Cl., M'chester, '79; Resg., '82; 2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '83; 1st Cl., '84
"	Miss M. Langdon	"	2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '79; 1st Cl., '85
"	" E. Mellor	"	2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '83; 1st Cl., '88
"	" B. A. Law	1st Cl. Cm. & Ret.	2nd Cl., 1888
"	" L. Webster	"	2nd Cl., 1888
"	" C. A. Tunstall	"	2nd Cl. T., M'chester, '86; 2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret., '89
"	" A. Stanley	1st Cl. Tel.	2nd Cl., 1885
"	" M. Long	"	2nd Cl., 1885
"	" E. Ingham	"	2nd Cl., 1885
Newark	Thompson, W.	Ch. Cl.	S.C. & T., '82; Cl., '90
"	Wilkins, T.	Cl.	S.C. & T., 1857
N'castle-on-T.	Davison, R. L.	1st Cl. T.	2nd Cl., 1882
"	Miss M. B. Wake	"	2nd Cl., 1885
Nottingham	Bateman, C.	Cl. (T.)	Elec. Tel. Co., '67; G.P.O. 1870
"	Woolfitt, A.	1st Cl. T.	2nd Cl., 1879
"	Snowdin, W.	"	2nd Cl., 1881
"	Crane, F. W.	"	2nd Cl., 1881
"	Thornton, W. J.	"	2nd Cl., 1882
"	Miss H. E. Part- ridge	"	2nd Cl., 1888
Oldham	Butterworth, J. W.	As. Sup.	S.C., '71; Cl., '85
"	Tattersall, J.	Cl.	S.C. & T., 1881
Scarborough	Bowman, J. T.	Cl.	S.C. & T., 1885
Sheffield	Turner, E. R.	Ch. Cl.	2nd Cl. S.C., York, '74; 1st Cl., '80; Cl., '81; Ch. Cl., '87



OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Southampton ...	Kellaway, T. H.	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '81; 1st Cl., 1888
" ...	Witt, S. J. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1890
Southend-on-Sea	Harding, H. H. ...	Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T., 1883
Stoke-on-Trent.	Oswald, M. C. M.	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '75; 1st Cl., '90
Swansea ... ..	Rees, W. ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '73; 1st Cl., '86
" ... ..	Miss S. P. Bold...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885
Torquay ... ..	Tucker, W. G. A.	As. Super. ... ..	S.C. & T., '70; Cl., '86
Wakefield ...	White, G. R. ...	In. of P. ... ..	S.C. & T., 1885

## SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen ...	Miss B. Watson .	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885
Edinburgh (Secretary's Off.)..	Lenton, E. A. ...	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70; Acct.'s Off., '82; Sur. Genl.'s, '84; 2nd Div. Cl., '90; Hr. Grade, '93
"	Macmillan, J. ...	2nd Cl. Pr. Kr. ...	2nd Cl. T., L'pool, '90; Edin., '91
" (Acct.'s Off.)	Laing, J. ... ..	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	1867
" "	Miss J. W. T. Drummond	" ... ..	1876; Tel., '78; Cl., A.O., Edin., '78
" (Sur. Off.)	Ritchie, T. ....	Inspg. T. (Midland Dis.)	Supply. T., '77; 2nd Cl., '78; 1st Cl. '87
Glasgow ... ..	Reay, J. H. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1884
" ... ..	Alexander, J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1884
" ... ..	Miss J. Anderson	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885

## IRELAND.

Dublin (Sortg. Off.)	Stone, R. ... ..	As. Sup. 2nd Cl. ...	1865; Sr., '71; O., '89; Cl., '91
"	Dargan, T. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	Boy Sr., '75; Indoor As., '78; 2nd Cl. S.C., '78
"	Mullingan, A. A.	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '76; Indoor As., '80
"	Moffett, E. P. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885
"	Donovan, P. ...	1st Cl. Pr. Kr. ...	1874; Sr. & Tr., 2nd Cl., Acct.'s Off., '78; 1st Cl., '86; 2nd Cl. Pr. Kr., S.O., '86
Killarney ... ..	Royse, H. B. ...	Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., Limerick, '73; 1st Cl., '84; 1st Cl. T., '89
Limerick ... ..	Howard, A. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	Mag. Tel. Co., 1864; G.P.O., '70
" ... ..	O'Brien, J. A. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1888
Londonderry ...	Vincent, B. ....	Cl. (T.) ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '79; 1st Cl., '93
"	Gallagher, J. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1883
"	Baird, M. ... ..	" ... ..	2nd Cl., 1885

# Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
M.O.O. ... ..	De Fraine, P. W.	P.C. ... ..	1855; P.C., '82
S.B.D. ... ..	Miss H. C. Moll.	2nd Cl. Cl. ... ..	1894
C.T.O. ... ..	Simmons, W.T.H.	Senr. T. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., 1852; G.P.O., '70; Senr. T. '85
" ... ..	Hall, J. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1884
" ... ..	Miss E. A. Drew	" ... ..	1884
L.P.S.D. (Circ. Off.)	Bedloe, Tom ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	Boy Sr., '70; 2nd Cl., '72; 1st Cl., '76
" ... ..	Kemp, D. ... ..	" ... ..	1869
" ... ..	Howard, W. H...	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '81; 2nd Cl., '82; 1st Cl., '90
" ... ..	Errington, W. T.	2nd Cl. Sr. ... ..	Boy Sr., '83; 3rd Cl., '85; 2nd Cl., '86
" ... ..	Fitch, A. E. ...	" ... ..	S.C. & T., Gravesend, '91; 2nd Cl. Sr., Cir. Off., '92
" (Contr.'s Off.)	Parmenter, E. F.	App. Ex. ... ..	Mail Off., '58; As. App. 'Ex., '80; In., '84; App. Ex., '85
L.P.S.D., E.C.	Hollingsworth, J. B.	Ins.-in-Ch., Bch. Off.	Mag. Tel. Co., '53; G.P.O., '70; Super., '81
" ... ..	Alexander, A. J.	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	1876; 1st Cl., '82
" N.D.O.	Hadrill, J.... ..	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1866; 2nd Cl. Sr., '73; 1st Cl., '90
" E.D.O.	Bundey, A. G. ...	" ... ..	Boy Sr., '79; 2nd Cl., '82; 1st Cl., '90
Brighton ... ..	Cooke, C. H. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1864
Cambridge ... ..	Royall, J. W. ...	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl. T., L'pool, '86; Cambridge, '91
Carmarthen ... ..	Harvey, W. ...	S.C. & T. ... ..	T., '71; P. Cl., '76
Chatham ... ..	Moffett, C. J. ...	" ... ..	S.C. & T., Chatham, '86; Stafford, '91; Chat-ham, '91
Darlington ... ..	Wrightson, D. T.	As. Sup. (T.) ... ..	Mag. T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; As. Sup., '91
Devonport ... ..	Gilbert, C. P. ...	S.C. & T. ... ..	Plymouth, '74; T.S., '80; S.C. & T., D'nport, '84
Gloucester ... ..	Gough, A. T. ...	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1886
Godalming ... ..	Bantoft, S.... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1887
Liverpool ... ..	Lewis, J. H. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1875; 1st Cl., '86
St. Austell ... ..	Guy, W. ... ..	Postmaster ... ..	1863
Wellington ... ..	Craddock, W. J.	S.C. & T. ... ..	1891
Weston-super-Mare	Wyatt, T. H. ...	" ... ..	1889
Woodford Green	Wadsworth, W. J.	" ... ..	1888
Edinburgh ... ..	Bennett, W. ...	Cl. (P.) ... ..	Jedburgh, '61; Edin., '63; O., '85; Cl., '91
Glasgow ... ..	Rainey, J. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '81; 2nd Cl. T., '84; 1st Cl., '88
Athlone ... ..	Connors, M. ...	S.C. & T. ... ..	1893
Belfast ... ..	O'Connor, J. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	Londonderry, '82; 2nd Cl. S.C., Belfast, '83; 1st Cl., '91

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Dublin ... ..	Casey, P. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	Pn., '59; 2nd Cl. Sr., '66; 1st Cl. S.C., '69
" ... ..	Durham, J. W. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1871; 1st Cl. T., '91
Kilkenny... ..	Meehan, M. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1889
Waterford ...	Russell, J. W. ...	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	Youghal, '72; Waterford, '77; 2nd Cl. T., '79

## *Postmasters Appointed.*

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Basingstoke ... ..	Young, C. J.... ..	Cl., Southampton, '66; As. Sup. (P.), '91
Belper ... ..	Chandler, R.... ..	Cl., Lynn, '74; 3rd Cl. S.C., Man- chester, '80; S.C. & T., Bletchley Stn., '80; Bedford, '81; Cl., '91
Berkeley ... ..	Miss M. M. Ford...	
Berwick ... ..	Franklin, J. G. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Ch. Cl., Peterboro', '91
Bilston ... ..	Chappell, W. F. ...	Mag. Tel. Co., '66; P.O., '70; 1st Cl. T., Hull, '81; Cl., '91
Colne ... ..	Goss, A. E. ... ..	S.B., Lond., '70; 2nd Cl. Sr., S.B., '73; 2nd Cl. As., R.L.O., '85; Pmr., Witham, '89
Dowlais ... ..	Owen, A. ... ..	S.C. & T., Llanelly, '79
Fakenham ... ..	Bradfield, W. R. ...	As., '77; S.C. & T., '92
Hawkhurst... ..	Twist, C. C. R. ...	S.C., L'pool, '71; 2nd Cl. T., '81; 1st Cl., '85; Pmr., Colne, '88
Lyndhurst, S.O. (Lymington)	Ford, J. G. ... ..	Newton Abbot, '70; Devonport, '74; Town Sub-Pmr. of Ford, Devonport, '79
Macclesfield ... ..	Crawley, H. C. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; 2nd Cl. T., C.T.O., '73; 1st Cl., '78; Sen. T., '86; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '90
Newquay, Cornwall ...	White, W. R. ... ..	Sub-Pmr., '72; Head Pmr., '93
North Shields ... ..	Smith, P. ... ..	Mag. Tel. Co., '63; P.O., Swansea, S.C. & T., '70; Cl., Newport, Mon., '86; Sup. (Tels.), '87
Stalybridge ... ..	Picking, S. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., Nottingham, '75; 1st Cl., '85; Cl., '91; As. Sup., '93
Tadcaster ... ..	Miss A. Shuffle- botham	S.C. & T., Newcastle, Staff., '88
Weymouth ... ..	Bogue, W. M. ... ..	Elec. & Intern'l Tel. Co., '63; G.P.O. (T.S.), '70; In., Sec.'s Off., '78
Laurencekirk ... ..	Miss I. M. Watt ...	S.C. & T., '92
Lochmaddy ... ..	Stuart, A. ... ..	S.C. & T., Buckie, '87; Thurso, '90
Stonehaven... ..	Robertson, J. D. ...	2nd Cl. T., Dundee, '72; 1st Cl., '85
Bantry... ..	Payne, W. J.... ..	S.C. & T., Killarney, '82

# Retirements.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sec.'s Office ..	†Brodie, C....	Staff Off. Sup. Est.	Univl. Priv. T. Co., '61; G. P. O., '70; S.O., '78; Staff Off., '93
R.A.G.O. (C.H.B.)	*Miss J. S. D. A. Fletcher	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	1885
„ (P.O.B.)	Miss M. E. Lake- man	„ ...	S.B., '79; P.O.B., '81
„ „	Miss E. Hum- phries	1st Cl. Cl. ...	2nd Cl., '82; 1st Cl., '90
S.B. ...	Scotchmer, F. H.	2nd Div. Cl....	Boy Cl., '72; 3rd Cl. Cl., '73; 2nd Cl., '85; Hr. Grade 2nd Div., '90
„ ...	*Miss A. Rush ...	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	C.H.B., '85; S.B., '85
C.T.O. ...	H. Smith ...	As. Contr. ...	Elec. T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70; 1st Cl. Cl. C.T.O., '71; As. Cont., '77; Hr. Scale, '89
L.P.S.D., E.C.	Champness, R.W.	1st Cl. Cm. and Tel.	1874
„	Miss E. M. Fow- ler	2nd Cl. Super. ...	Elec. T. Co., '61; G.P.O. Super., '81; 2nd Cl., '93
Circn. Office ...	Matthews, R. ...	As. Supt. ...	Cl., Liverpool, '51; I.O., '53; As. Sup. '85
„ ...	Corcoran, H. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	1866
„ ...	Bragg, C. ...	„ ...	1860
„ ...	Jordan, J. H. ...	2nd Cl. Sr. ...	Pn., '75; 2nd Cl. Sr. C.O., '85
W.D.O. ...	*Belcher, H. ...	„ ...	Boy Sr., '81; 3rd Cl., '86; 2nd Cl., '86
N.D.O. ...	Shambrook, A.T.	2nd Cl. O. ...	Pn., '68; Hd. Pn., '80; 2nd Cl. O., '93
„ ...	*Miss E. A. Adeney	2nd Cl. Cm. and Ret.	1887
E.D.O. ...	Bellett, J. ...	1st Cl. O. ...	1858; Sr., '67; As. O., '73; O., '74
Wandsworth ...	Sage, C. ...	2nd Cl. Overseer ...	1874; Hd. Pn., '82; 2nd Cl. O., '85

## PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Bath ...	Lyddon, W. C.	As. Sup. (P.)...	1854; Cl., '56; As. Sup., '91
Cardiff ...	*Miss M. J. Ed- wards	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '86
Croydon ...	Swift, T. ...	Cl. ...	1867
Folkestone ...	Hawkins, G. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	Cl., '59; Ch. Cl., '81
Gloucester ...	Wilson, J. G. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	Cl., '52; Ch. Cl., '81
Hastings...	Purkis, H. D. ...	S. C. & T. ...	Boy Sr., '74; 2nd Cl., '77; 2nd Cl. Cm. & T., S.W., '88; 2nd Cl. S. C. & T., Hastings, '92

\* Awarded a Gratuity. † Retires under the provisions of the Order  
in Council of the 15th August, 1890.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Hull... ..	Moorey, J. K. ...	1st. Cl. T. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70
Liverpool ...	Stringfellow, J....	As. Sup., 1st Cl. (P.)	1855; 1st Cl., As. Sup., '90
Maidstone ..	Ransley, G. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1856
Manchester ...	*Mullock, J. H....	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1887
" ...	Knott, J. ... ..	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	1855
Peterboro' ...	*Aspittle, J. ...	S. C. ... ..	1892
Shrewsbury ...	*Jones, W. H. ..	S. C. 2nd Cl. ... ..	S. C. & T., Stafford, '85; Shrewsbury, '89
Southend - on - Sea	Kemp, A. G. ...	S. C. & T. ... ..	1882
Stockton - on - Tees	Welch, J. ... ..	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1857
West Hartlepool	Hodgson, J. ...	Pmr. ... ..	Cl., Darlington, '53; Pmr., W. Hartlepool, '78.

## SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh ...	Robertson, G. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. ... ..	1873; Indoor As., '73; 2nd Cl. S., '77
Glasgow ... ..	*Miss J. P. Grieve	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1888

## IRELAND.

Belfast ... ..	Miss A. Maher ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1870
Dublin ... ..	Miss M. Brennan	As. Super. (T.) ...	T. Cl., Ulster Rly. Co., '66; British & Irish Mag. Tel. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; 3rd Cl. T., '71; 2nd Cl., '81; 1st Cl., '90; As. Sup., '91
" ... ..	Walpole, R. T....	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	T., Dub., '70; Londonderry, '70; 3rd Cl. T., Dub., '71; 2nd Cl., '76

\*Awarded a Gratuity.

## ABBREVIATIONS.

As., Assistant; Cl., Clerk; Cm., Counterman or Counterwoman; En., Engineer; Ex., Examiner; In., Inspector; Ju., Junior; Ms., Messenger; O., Overseer; P.C., Principal Clerk; Pn., Postman; Pmr., Postmaster; Pr. Kr., Paper Keeper; R.C., Relay Clerk; Ret., Returner; Sr., Sorter; S.C., Sorting Clerk; Sup., Superintendent or Superintending; Supr., Supervisor; Sur., Surveyor; T., Telegraphist; Tr., Tracer.

# TO OUR READERS.

**I**N beginning another volume we have much pleasure in announcing that our circulation continues to increase, and that the year opens with every prospect of a larger circulation than ever before. The increase in our Colonial subscriptions is especially gratifying, and among our subscribers we now for the first time muster a contingent from the important colonies of Canada and Queensland.

We hope that those who so kindly act as agents for us in the Colonies will remember how much we need articles on postal and telegraph matters of general interest, as well as photographs of the leading officials and of places and scenes of postal and telegraphic interest. In sending such things we hope our friends will bear in mind that we do not want paragraphs merely in praise of individuals or of purely local interest. Those who study our pages can hardly fail to see what we do require. We would especially ask our friends in Canada and Queensland to help us in this way. We should also be very glad to receive portraits of the heads of the New Zealand administration, as well as of the Chief Postmasters of that Colony, and views of the General Post Office there.

## SPECIAL NOTICE.

THIS magazine is written solely for the benefit of Post Officers. It is sold to them, and them only, on the understanding that they do not part with it to anyone outside the service. If any subscriber does not feel inclined to comply, we will, on application, return him his money. We request that our agents will take all possible care that this rule is carried out, as otherwise the interests of the magazine will be seriously imperilled. All therefore who value it will, we hope, take care that our wishes in this respect are strictly carried out.

### Statement of Account of "St. Martin's-le-Grand Magazine" for the year 1894 (the fourth year of publication).

#### RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward ... ..	18	18	9
Subscriptions, &c. ... ..	465	17	8
Advertisements ... ..	12	1	6

£496 17 11

#### PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
Printing, Binding, &c. ... ..	306	17	0
Artist ... ..	16	6	6
Engraver ... ..	46	5	1
Assistance ... ..	31	6	3
Postage ... ..	65	5	0
Type-Writer ... ..	22	17	0
Miscellaneous ... ..	5	10	6
Balance ... ..	2	10	7

£496 17 11

*Examined and found correct,*

F. W. HOME (R. & A.G.O.), }  
WM. G. TRINDER (S.B.D.), } *Auditors.*

19th December, 1894.

F. J. BECKLEY,  
*Hon. Sec.*



UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA



# ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

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APRIL, 1895.

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## *A Peculiar Incident at Constantinople.*

**A**T three o'clock on a bright sunny afternoon last January, three servants of Her Britannic Majesty found themselves under arrest in two apartments of a dirty little guard-house in Stamboul. But, though all servants of the crown, they were not all British subjects. One of them, standing handcuffed in the midst of a group of cursing policemen and soldiers, who, encouraged by their officers, were kicking him and striking him with their swords, had the misfortune to be born a Christian subject of the Porte. To his original sin of being an Armenian he had added the hateful offence of serving the detested "Franks," and—worst of all the "Frank" nations—the "Inglees." Of the other two, who, separated from him by a passage way and two closed doors, were just then vainly struggling with seven or eight armed men for the recovery of some British documents, one was a Greek and the other an Englishman. These two, being "protected" in a manner which doubtless strikes politicians of the type of Mr. Thomas Gibson Bowles, M.P., and the *Pall Mall Gazette* as an unwarrantable interference with the internal government of Turkey, were not being kicked and beaten. But in one respect they were all three in the same plight—prisoners in Turkish hands, without any means of obtaining assistance from the Queen's representative. It is indeed nothing new for the Grand Turk to behave in this way to the strangers within his gates. A century or so ago he was accustomed to keep imprisoned in the dungeons of the Seven Towers the ambassador of any power with whom he happened to be at war. But we have come down to more prosaic times, and the Turk of to-day no longer dares to fly at

such high game as an ambassador. Considering his altered circumstances he may still be thought by his admirers to have acted with a certain amount of reckless daring in arresting these three servants of the British Crown, brutally ill-treating one of them, and forcibly tearing their papers from the other two. For the handcuffed



ARMENIAN MAIL PORTERS AT THE BRITISH POST OFFICE, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Hazar.	Setrack.	Keragos.
	Osgian.	

Armenian is a British postman, the other two are a clerk and the postmaster of the British Post Office; and the "documents" are letters, "the property of Her Majesty's Postmaster General," which have been abstracted from the postman's bag. With which

preamble, I will now avail myself of the privileged medium of our own magazine, and give a few details of my strange experience of January 19th, 1895, which may interest my colleagues who sit at home at ease, and are curious to know more than the press has already told them.

It was our second day in the new office. Carpenters and painters were still busy, amid the usual bustle of stamping and sorting a big mail from Europe—we are, you see, so much on the outside edge of civilization that we always talk of Europe as if we were not actually in it—when an Armenian gentleman insisted on seeing me personally. “Your Stamboul postman,” said he, “has been arrested at the bridge. They pretend he has tried to pass a bad 10 para piece. I saw him offer another, but they refused it and beckoned to the *zaptiehs* (armed policemen) who dragged him into the guard-house close by, and they have taken away his letters. I am sure they want to see Mr. Whittall’s letters.” (Mr. Whittall is an influential Stamboul trader, no doubt suspected of corresponding with Armenians in the disturbed districts.) “I told them,” he continued; “they were acting stupidly; that the man was the British postman, and there would be a row if they detained him, but they said they didn’t care, they meant to examine his letters.”

Clearly not a moment was to be lost. Taking with me a young Greek clerk, named Vlasto, to act as interpreter, I jumped into the first carriage we saw and hurried across the bridge. There, in the doorway of the small wooden shed which serves for a guard-house, and is divided into two compartments by a central passage, stood poor Osgian, a picture of despair, lamenting the loss of his money which they had stolen while searching him. Telling Vlasto to pacify him with an assurance that we should get it back again, I turned into the right hand room, where we introduced ourselves to the police officer in charge, and asked why our postman had been detained. “He has tried to pass bad money, and he will have to be examined to-morrow.” There was, of course, no reason why he should not be examined at once, but in Turkey no one ever dreams of doing anything the same day—*yarrin* (to-morrow) is the word a foreigner learns second in his Turkish vocabulary, the first being *yok* (no) and the third either *yassak* (forbidden) or *bakallum* (we will see). We asked to be shewn the bad piece, and he pointed to a battered coin, rather more tinny-looking than usual, lying on his table, but churlishly refusing to let us examine it, in spite of our assurance that we did not want to hold it, he put it in his purse.

Then I noticed on his table a packet of letters, evidently taken from Osgian's bag, and I took it up saying I must keep possession of it. He was of a different opinion and snatched at the packet. I held it tightly, so did he, and in less time than it takes to describe I found myself struggling for the letters in the middle of an angry group of police and soldiers who had rushed in to support the police officer. Vlasto, who had done his best to second my efforts, was caught by the neck and waist and forced on to a divan at the back of the room, while my attempt to get near the window to call for help was quickly noticed, and the window closed and the blinds drawn. The door had been locked just before, and Osgian, who had been standing in the doorway, was dragged over to the opposite room. The packet of letters was very near escaping all risk of being "examined" by getting torn to pieces. My only chance of saving them from destruction was to let go my hold, and I must confess I did so with a very unpleasant sense of humiliation. The police officer retired with the booty and we were left in charge of a captain and two soldiers. The door was then opened and the blinds drawn up, for our close confinement was attracting too much attention from the crowd outside. I asked that Vlasto might be allowed to go to the British Consulate, but this was refused.

Let me here parenthetically remark that under those "capitulations" (so objectionable to Sir Ashmead Bartlett and his friends) which alone make it possible for foreigners to live in Turkey, the very first right of the foreigner is to invoke the presence of his consul when he is arrested. Finding we could not communicate with our friends, I said to Vlasto, "However excited we may feel, we musn't appear so; we'll have a cigarette." But my case was empty, and his had been smashed when they forced him on to the divan, so we had to get one of the soldiers to fetch a box. We then resigned ourselves to our fate, feeling not a little comforted by the thought that it still wanted more than two hours to sunset, and that the chief clerk would not fail to come in search of us if our return to the office was much delayed.

On the doors being opened we caught sight of the unfortunate Osgian in the other room. Vlasto said, "They have put handcuffs on him!" To handcuff such a meek timid creature as Osgian seemed as much out of place as to muzzle a lamb, and as he was not near enough for me to see them I believed my companion was giving play to his imagination, after the manner of his countrymen.

We had been sitting some 20 minutes, smoking and eagerly watching the passers-by in hope of being seen by some one in

European head-gear amongst the crowd of fezzes, which for once appeared so monotonous in its redness, when the sound of a stopping carriage attracted our attention. In another moment entered my good friend T. from the Consulate with an awe-inspiring "Kavass," and my chief clerk. The latter, had it seems, been informed of our position by an Armenian Hamal who saw me at the window, and he had hurried breathless to the Consulate for assistance. A very welcome trio they were, especially on account of the leader, whom I knew to be just the best possible man to get us quickly out of our dilemma, for T. is not only a thorough Englishman, but speaks Turkish fluently. He has a large amount of tact and good nature judiciously blended with a penetrating firmness that is much more efficacious with the Turk than noise or swagger.

After hearing from me what had happened, he went into the other room to see after Osgian. "But what does this mean? Your wrists are bleeding." Osgian told him that when they shut the door on us, and dragged him away to that room, they forced his hands into handcuffs that were too small, and cut his wrists; that the police kicked him, and one of the soldiers belaboured him on the arms and thighs with a drawn sword. While they were beating him, he said they used the filthiest language about his master and the ambassador, and in fact about the whole English nation; and, when he begged for mercy and asked why they treated him so cruelly, their reply was "you're an Armenian! that's reason enough." They had, it seems, taken off the handcuffs a few minutes before T. arrived—but they had not returned him the twelve "medjidiehs" (equal to £2) they had stolen from his purse. Seeing the terror poor Osgian was in, and the clear evidence of their brutality, T. inquired sharply why they had handcuffed him. One and all stoutly denied that he had ever been handcuffed, but turning to one of the men with a searching glance T. said "why, you put the handcuffs on him!" which so startled him that he replied, pointing to one of the others, "yes, but you gave me the order!" T. found them all eager to explain away their behaviour, but as they all insisted on giving their accounts together, he found it impossible to make much out of their explanations. How could they tell the "effendi" was the English postmaster? He had come there and behaved very violently, and had tried to take away English letters that were in their keeping. He had insulted His Majesty's uniform. This remark came from the police officer himself, pointing to one of his epaulettes that had become unstitched in the tussle for the packet of

letters, and in further proof of his assertions he invited T. to step over into the other room and see for himself the blind lying on the floor, one of the results of the terrible onslaught that had been made on him by that violent Englishman—whom they discovered smoking his cigarette, looking, T. says, as if nothing unusual had happened.

It took some minutes to make them realize the gravity of the offence they had committed. In fact, I doubt if they did realize it at all. The captain, a fat burly fellow who had quite irregularly appeared on the scene with his men,—finding no doubt the opportunity of terrifying and beating an Armenian too good to be missed—has probably been commended for his zeal, and though the police officer was made the immediate scapegoat and “suspended” by the Minister of Police within half-an-hour of the occurrence, he will not fail to be compensated for his temporary inconvenience by a promotion of some sort. T. said to me, “they say you and Mr. Vlasto can go, Mr. Cobb. In fact, they maintain you could have gone whenever you pleased.” I said that was untrue; they placed a guard over us, and refused to let Vlasto go to the Consulate, and besides it was absurd to suppose I should go and leave my men and my letters in their charge. They still wished to detain Osgian for examination next day. T. asked if I would consent to that. I said “I am certainly not going from here without Osgian.” They then reluctantly agreed to let Osgian go at once with us to the Central Police Station. Two carriages were ordered; into the first one stepped two policemen with Osgian’s letter bag, and the second was occupied by Osgian, Vlasto, T., and myself, with the Consular Kavass on the box. A very few minutes sufficed to convince the officer in charge there that there was no excuse for detaining Osgian, whose bag was handed back to him with the abstracted packet of letters that had so narrowly escaped destruction. I find I have omitted to mention one actor in the scene, a mysterious being in a mixed uniform of no known regiment, who hovered about the guard-house all the time we were detained there and declined to tell us what his business there was. I had suspected him of being a spy, and I do not think he was much wronged by the suspicion, for just as we were leaving the guard-house he made signs to me behind the police officer’s back, that he would give evidence in our favour!—for the customary “backsheesh” of course.

But I fear I am making a long story of a short though significant incident. I did not at first attach so much importance to our arrest as properly belonged to it, because the treatment which I

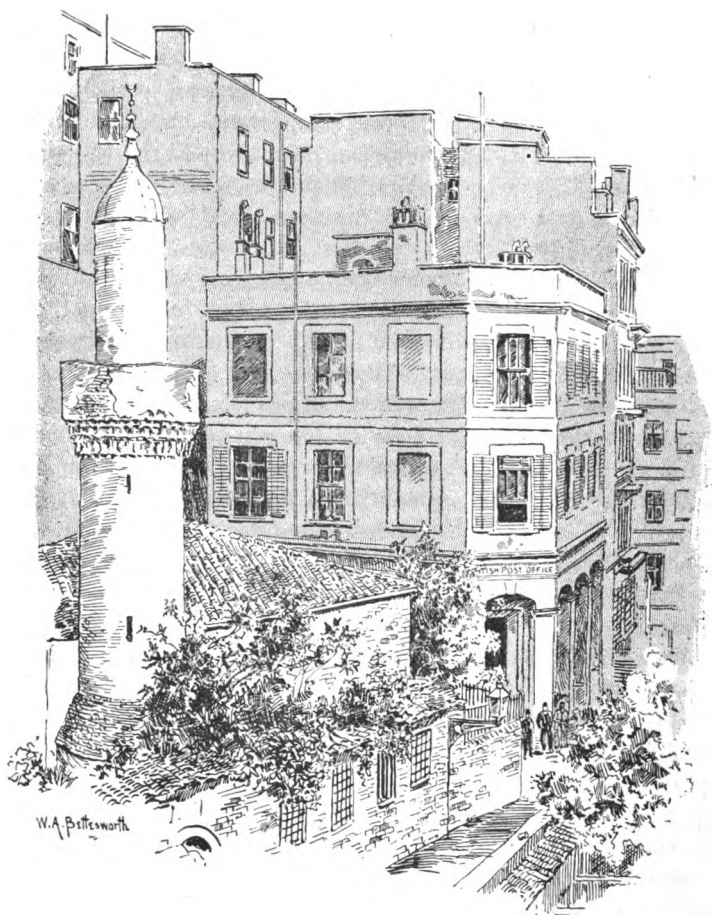
found Osgian had been subjected to quite outweighed the temporary inconvenience Vlasto and myself had suffered. When we returned to the Post Office I heard the details, and saw the evidences on his arms of the ferocity of the Turkish officials; and I must confess that I thought it fortunate both for him and for us that he had not dared to shriek for help. As it was, we neither of us dreamt of their venturing to ill-treat him, and I am certain my friend T. would not have found us smoking our cigarettes so calmly if we had had any idea of the abominable cruelty poor Osgian had been suffering on the other side of the passage. At the Ambassador's request I had him examined the next day, when his arms and legs showed several bruises and weals in addition to the cuts on his wrists. I suppose such treatment is an every-day matter when an Armenian gets into the hands of the Turkish authorities. The inference is a fair one, judging by the amount of compensation the Turks thought sufficient for him, *i.e.*, 3 Turkish pounds, equal to 54 shillings, of which 12 medjidiehs, equal to 40 shillings, had been stolen from him. And this was for an Armenian *in the capital, and in the service of the British Government!* In the case of Armenians not enjoying the direct protection of the British Government, the luxury of cuffing and kicking them must be cheap indeed. One shudders at the thought of what the wives and children of these poor fellows in their far-away homes in Armenia must be exposed to when the bread winners in the capital are treated with such wanton cruelty. It is pleasant to be able to add that Osgian declined the compensation, saying, "all he wanted from the Turks was the money they had robbed him of." So his persecutors have 14 shillings in hand, which they may find a use for in settling their next compensation case.

Let me finish my recital with one or two corrections of the press. *Le Temps* was incorrect in saying (vide Havas Agency's telegram, direct from Turkey) that the English Postmaster at Constantinople had been arrested "pour manquement grave dans le service de l'administration" (in plain English, that is, for embezzling official moneys), and it was hardly polite for the same paper to print the actual facts the next day, styling them the details of the affair it had reported the day before, without a word of apology. Another French paper *Le Matin* said that I had been arrested for interfering with the course of justice! This telegram came also direct from Constantinople. A Vienna paper said the English merchants were very dissatisfied with the way in which the matter had been settled, and would raise an "interpellation in parliament." Even our own

English papers published a garbled account of the conclusion of the "incident." None of them mentioned the amount of compensation offered to the Armenian, or his refusal of it, except the *Daily News*; and the usually careful "Reuter" spoke of a written apology, though it was only verbal, and of the matter having been "satisfactorily terminated." But perhaps the telegram got altered in transmission.

Constantinople.

F. S. COBB.



OLD BRITISH POST OFFICE, GALATA.



## *The Post Office at Thrums.*

AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN.

[Complaints having been made to the Supreme Secret Committee of the Sanctum of the General Post Office that a certain tort or wrongful deed has been done, perpetrated, or committed against the Department by one J. M. Barrie, the author of "Auld Licht Idylls," and the Committee having taken into their earnest consideration the following question, viz. :—What penalty or punishment is it desirable should be imposed or inflicted upon the said J. M. Barrie, in order that he and others may be deterred from the perpetration and commission of like irregularities in future; and the attention of the Committee having been directed to the fact that when the celebrated philosopher Galileo was arraigned before the tribunal of the Lords Cardinals, charged with the offence of having made an incorrect and heretical statement, namely, that the sun was the centre of the universe (*Solem esse in centro Mundi et immobilem*), the said tribunal declared the said statement to be absurd, false in philosophy, and formally heretical (*propositio absurda, falsa in philosophia, et formaliter hæretica*), and did accordingly sentence and condemn the said Galileo, an elderly man, to a punishment before the magnitude of which the mind quails appalled, namely, for three years to recite the seven penitential psalms once a week (*ut tribus annis futuris recites semel in hebdomada septem psalmos pœnitentiales*), by way, as they said, of a salutary penance (*titulo pœnitentiæ salutaris*); now be it hereby enacted and decreed, and the said Committee do hereby sentence and condemn the said J. M. Barrie for his equally incredible and ill-founded statements in the said "Auld Licht Idylls" to the following salutary pains and penalties, that is to say, firstly, that he shall explain *in writing* to all and sundry the proper manner of pronouncing the word *Licht*, and also state positively and definitely (giving adequate reasons and authorities) whether the word *Idylls* rhymes to *bridles* or *fiddles*; secondly, that he be rigorously examined (*necesse esse venire ad rigorosum examen ejus*) in effigy as to his statements concerning the Thrums Post Office by an officer of the Confidential Enquiry Branch; and thirdly, inasmuch as he is not the first Scottish offender of the kind, one Walter Scott, in a book called the "Antiquary," having previously transgressed to similar purpose, that he learn by heart and recite daily, or be considered to have so learnt and recited, all the Acts, Warrants, Orders in Council, and Regulations relating to the Post Office, and likewise the

whole of the Book of Rules for Head Postmasters ; and finally while reserving to ourselves the power of modifying, altering, or remitting wholly or in part the aforesaid punishments and penances (*reservantes nobis potestatem moderandi, mutandi, aut tollendi omnino vel ex parte supradictas penas et pœnitentias*), we enact and decree that the said incredible statements be extracted, collected, emended (if necessary), printed, and published at the foot hereof as a warning and admonition, without prejudice (*absque præjudicio*), to all and sundry to all time hereafter (*in sæcula sæculorum*).

Given at our Head-quarters in St. Martin's, in the year of grace Eighteen Hundred and Ninety Five.]



FROM the north-west corner of the square a narrow street sets off, jerking this way and that as if uncertain what point to make for. Here lurks the Post Office, which had once the reputation of being as crooked in its ways as the street itself.

A railway line runs into Thrums now. The sensational days of the Post Office were when the letters were conveyed officially in a creaking old cart from Tilliedrum. The "pony" had seen better days than the cart, and always looked as if he were just on the point of succeeding in running away from it. Hooky Crewe was driver ; so-called because an iron hook was his substitute for a right arm. Robbie Proctor, the blacksmith, made the hook and fixed it in. Crewe suffered from rheumatism, and when he felt it coming on he stayed at home. Sometimes his cart came undone in a snowdrift ; when Hooky, extricated from the fragments by some chance wayfarer, was deposited with his mail bag (of which he always kept a grip by the hook) in a farm house. It was his boast that his letters always reached their destination eventually. They might be a long time about it, but "slow *and* sure" was his motto. Hooky emphasised his "slow *and* sure" by taking a snuff. He was a godsend to the post-mistress, for to his failings or the infirmities of his gig were charged all delays.

At the time I write of, the posting of the letter took as long, and was as serious an undertaking, as the writing. That means a good deal, for many of the letters were written to dictation by the Thrums schoolmaster, Mr. Fleemister, who belonged to the Auld Kirk. He was one of the few persons in the community who looked upon the despatch of his letters by the Postmistress as his right, and not a favour on her part ; there was a long-standing feud between them accordingly. After a few tumblers of Widow Stable's treacle-beer—in the concoction of which she was the acknowledged mistress for

miles around—the schoolmaster would sometimes go to the length of hinting that he could get the Postmistress dismissed any day. This mighty power seemed to rest on a knowledge of “steamed” letters. Thrums had a high respect for the schoolmaster, but among themselves the weavers agreed that, even if he did write to the Government, Lizzie Harrison, the Postmistress, would refuse to transmit the letter. The more shrewd ones among us kept friends with both parties; for, unless you could write “writ-hand,” you could not compose a letter without the schoolmaster’s assistance; and, unless Lizzie was so courteous as to send it to its destination, it might lie—or so it was thought—much too long in the box. A letter addressed by the schoolmaster found great disfavour in Lizzie’s eyes. You might explain to her that you had merely called in his assistance because you were a poor hand at writing yourself, but that was held no excuse. Some addressed their own envelopes with much labour, and sought to palm off the whole as their handiwork. It reflects on the postmistress somewhat that she had generally found them out by next day, when, if in a specially vixenish mood, she did not hesitate to upbraid them for their perfidy.

To post a letter you did not merely saunter to the Post Office and drop it into the box. The cautious correspondent first went into the shop and explained to Lizzie how matters stood. She kept what she called a bookseller’s shop as well as the Post Office; but the supply of books corresponded exactly to the lack of demand for them, and her chief trade was in nicknacks, from marbles and money-boxes up to concertinas. If he found the postmistress in an amiable mood, which was only now and then, the caller led up craftily to the object of his visit. Having discussed the weather and the potato disease, he explained that his sister Mary, whom Lizzie would remember, had married a fishmonger in Dundee. The fishmonger had lately started on himself and was doing well. They had four children. The youngest had had a severe attack of measles. No news had been got of Mary for twelve months; and Annie, his other sister, who lived in Thrums, had been at him of late for not writing. So he had written a few lines; and, in fact, he had the letter with him. The letter was then produced and examined by the Postmistress. If the address was in the schoolmaster’s handwriting, she professed her inability to read it. Was this a *t* or an *l* or an *i*? Was that a *b* or a *d*? This was a cruel revenge on Lizzie’s part; for the sender of the letter was completely at her mercy. The schoolmaster’s name being tabooed in her presence, he was unable to explain that the writing was not his

own, and as for deciding between the *t*'s and *l*'s he could not do it. Eventually he would be directed to put the letter into the box. They would do their best with it, Lizzie said, but in a voice that suggested how little hope she had of her efforts to decipher it proving successful.

There was an opinion among some of the people that the letter should not be stamped by the sender. The proper thing to do was to drop a penny for the stamp into the box along with the letter, and then Lizzie would see that it was all right. Lizzie's acquaintance with the handwriting of every person in the place who could write gave her a great advantage. You would perhaps drop into her shop some day to make a purchase, when she would calmly produce a letter you had posted several days before. In explanation she would tell you that you had not put a stamp on it, or that she suspected there was money in it, or that you had addressed it to the wrong place. I remember an old man, a relative of my own, who happened for once in his life to have several letters to post at one time. The circumstance was so out of the common that he considered it only reasonable to make Lizzie a small present.

Perhaps the Postmistress was belied; but if she did not "steam" the letters and confide their tit-bits to favoured friends of her own sex, it is difficult to see how all the gossip got out. The schoolmaster once played an unmanly trick on her, with the view of catching her in the act. He was a bachelor who had long been given up by all the maids in the town. One day, however, he wrote a letter to an imaginary lady in the county-town, asking her to be his, and going into full particulars about his income, his age, and his prospects. A male friend, in the secret, at the other end, was to reply in a lady's handwriting, accepting him and also giving personal particulars. The first letter was written; and an answer arrived in due course—two days, the schoolmaster said, after date. No other person knew of this scheme for the undoing of the postmistress, yet in a very short time the schoolmaster's coming marriage was the talk of Thrums. Everybody became suddenly aware of the lady's name, of her abode, and of the sum of money she was to bring her husband. It was even noised abroad that the schoolmaster had represented his age at a good ten years less than it was. Then the schoolmaster divulged everything. To his mortification he was not quite believed. All the proof he could bring forward to support his story was this: that time would show whether he got married or not. Foolish man! this argument was met by another which was accepted at once. The lady had jilted the schoolmaster. Whether

this explanation came from the Post Office who shall say? But so long as he lived the schoolmaster was twitted about the lady who threw him over. He took his revenge in two ways. He wrote and posted letters exceedingly abusive of the postmistress. The matter might be libellous, but then, as he pointed out, she would incriminate herself if she "brought him up" about it. Probably Lizzy felt his other insult more. By publishing his suspicions of her on every possible occasion he got a few people to seal their letters. So bitter was his feeling against her that he was even willing to supply the wax.

They know all about Post Offices in Thrums now, and even jeer at the telegraph boy's uniform. In the old days they gathered round him when he was seen in the street, and escorted him to his destination in triumph. That, too, was after Lizzie had gone the way of all the earth. But perhaps they are not even yet as knowing as they think themselves. I was told the other day that one of them took out a Postal Order, meaning to send the money to a relative, and kept the Order as a receipt.

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## *An Old Establishment List.*

[The following particulars of the Post Office as it was in 1753 are extracted from the *Court and City Register* of the following year. In looking at the salaries paid it is well to bear in mind that, as Mr. Joyce points out, they often bore but a distant relation to the actual income. The Secretaryship had not the importance which it afterwards attained under Anthony Todd.]

### *Postmaster-General.*

The Earl of Leicester, and Sir Everard Fawkner, Kt., £2,000 a year.

### *Secretary.*

G. Shelvocke, Esq., F.R.S., £200.

### *Clerks to the Secretary.*

Thomas Strickland, £60.

John Ismay, £50.

Charles Jackson, £30.

Geo. Golightly, 3s. a day.

### *Receiver-General.*

Sir Francis Charlton, Bt., £300.

### *Clerks to the Receiver-General.*

Benjamin Dacosta, £50.

Thomas Payne, £30.

### *Accomptant-General.*

Thomas Pitches, Esq., £300.

John Spicer, Deputy, £90.

### *Clerks to Accomptant-General.*

John Rowlands, £50.

Henry Porter, £50.

Robert Wilkins, £50.

### *Comptroller of Inland Office.*

Henry Potts, Esq., £200.

### *Solicitor to the Post Office.*

William Hall, Esq., £200.

### *Resident Surveyor.*

Christ. Robinson, Esq., £300.

### *Inspectors of the Mis-sent and Dead Letters.*

Robert Parsons,

John Barber, £100 each.

### *Deputy-Comptroller of the Inland Office.*

John Barber, £100.

### *Clerks of the Roads.*

#### CHESTER—

John Jackson, £100.

Joshua Baker, Assistant, £60.

#### WEST—

Rich. Dickerson, £60.

Thos. Ravenhill, Assist., £60.

#### NORTH—

Christ. Harris, £60.

Jas. Sam Redmayne, Assist., £60.

#### BRISTOL—

John Sawtell, £60.

Wm. Boulton, Assist., £60.

*Clerks of the Roads—con.—*

## YARMOUTH—

John Stubbs, £60.  
Wm. Cotsford, *Assist.*, £60.

## KENT—

Robt. Saxby, £60.  
David Brown, *Assist.*, £50.

*Clerk of the Bye-Nights.*

Thomas Smith, £60.

*Sorters.*

John Silvester, £50.  
Jacob Jackson, £50.  
John Maskall, £50.  
James Pack, £50.  
John Flower, £50.  
Charles Creswell, £50.  
Jacobs Shaw, £50.  
John Briggs, £50.  
Kendall Markant, £40.  
Thos. Rowlands, £40.

*Six Supernumerary Sorters.*

Three at £30 each.  
Three at £25 each.

*Window Man and Alphabet Keeper.*

John Green, £60.

*Window Man on the By-Days.*

Mr. Robert Begg, £50.

*Chamber-keeper to the Postmaster-General.*

Bartholomew Francis.

*Court Post,*

Henry Penton, Esq., £2 a day.

*Mail Makers.*

John Wakeling and Matthew Brittingham, £150.

*Inspector of the Letter Carriers.*

Josiah Mitchell, £60.

*Inspector of the Franks.*

John Maskall.

*Sixty-seven Letter Carriers*

at 11s. per week.

## FORREIGN OFFICE.

*Comptroller.*

John Daye, Esq., £150.

*Alphabet Keeper.*

Joseph Fell, Jun., £100.

*Secretary.*

Anthony Todd, Esq., £50.

*Clerks.*

John Calcott, £50.  
Charles Lee, £50.  
James Holcombe, £50.  
Thomas Jackson, £50.  
Charles Jackson, £50.  
John French, £40.

*Manager of the Packet Boats at the Brill.*

Rich. Walters, £120.

*Agents.*

Edmund Barham, Esq., at Dover, £150.  
James Clements, Esq., at Harwich, £150.  
Geo. Bell, Esq., at Falmouth, £120.

*Inspectors of the Carriers, Coachmen and Watermen.*

Andrew Hood, £52.  
Andrew Rhoden, £52.  
Arthur Trayer, £52.  
William Yapp, £52.

*Six Messengers*

at 12s. a week.

*Housekeeper.*

Mrs. Braund, £60.

*Bags for the following Towns are dispatched every Night, and the Letters delivered in return every day (Sundays excepted) :—*

Abingdon	Grays	Royston
Attleborough	Gerrards Cross	Rumford
Bath, Beccles	Gloucester	Sandwich
Beconsfield	Guildford	Saxmundham
Birmingham	Hertford	Sittingbourn
Bridgwater	Hampton Court	Shepperton
Bristol	Hampton Town	Stoke, in Norfolk
Bromsgrove	Hanworth	Southall
Burntwood	Ham, in Surry	Sunbury
Bury St. Edms.	Hamwick, in Surry	Taunton
Cambridge	High Wickham	Thame
Camden	Ingateston	Thanet
Canterbury	Isleworth	Thames Ditton
Claremont	Ipswich	Thetford
Chatham	Kelvedon	Teddington
Chelmsford	Kingston	Tiverton
Chertsey	Kingston Wick	Twickenham
Chipp. Norton	Lalam	Uxbridge
Cirencester	Leatherhead	Walsall
Colchester	Littleton	Walton
Croydon	Lowstoft	Wells
Cobham	Lynn	Wellington
Dorking	Maidston	Weybridge
Dartford	Moulsey, in Surry	Windsor
Deal, Dover	Newmarket	Wingham
Enfield	Norwich	Windham
Esher, in Surry	Oxford	Witham
Epsom	Petersham	Witton
Evesham	Portsmouth	Worcester
Exeter	Queenborough	Wolverhampton
Farringdon	Richmond	Yarmouth
Faversham	Ripley	
Gravesend	Rochester	

N.B.—Tunbridge Bag goes every Night from Midsummer to Michaelmas only.

*Bags for the following Towns are dispatch'd, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays ; and the Returns are delivered, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays :—*

Arundel	Godalmin	Petworth
Brighthelmston	Haslemere	Rygate
Chichester	Lewes	Steyning
Eastgrinstead	Midhurst	Shoreham

*The Mails for Foreign Parts go out on the following nights :—*

To France, Spain, and Italy, Monday and Thursday.

To Holland, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, Tuesday and Friday.

To Flanders, and from thence to Denmark and Sweden, Monday and Friday.

To Spain, by the way of Falmouth, from London every other Tuesday, and from Falmouth by Packet Boats to the Groyne.

*The Mails are due from Foreign Parts as follows :—*

From Holland, Monday and Friday.

From France, Wednesday and Saturday.

From Flanders, Monday and Thursday.

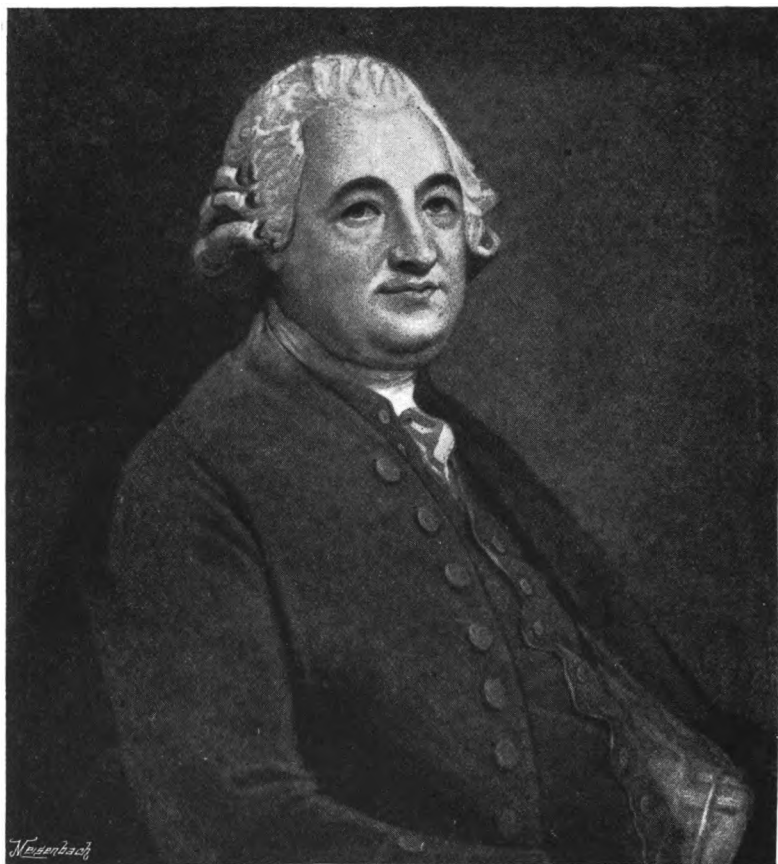
From Ireland, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

From Spain, Portugal, &c., once a week.

*There is always an Officer in waiting to dispatch expresses to any part of the Kingdom at any Hour, either of the Day or Night.*







ANTHONY TODD.

## NOTES.

The above document is reprinted from the *Court and City Register* for the year 1753, and appears to have been produced originally from official information. The following points are worthy of notice:—

1. At this time, and up to 1854, the office of Receiver-General was quite distinct from that of Accountant-General, and the amalgamation of the two took place when at length it was discovered that the two offices were doing the same work. The position of Controller-General was made by the Treasury to act as a check on the Post Office expenditure, and the appointment was in its gift; but it is a curious comment on the then ideas of how an efficient check should be kept, that the occupant of the place was allowed to perform the duty by deputy.

2. The office of Secretary was not then one of great importance, and in the official establishment-book Mr. Shelvocke's name appears after that of Sir F. Charlton. The Secretary, in fact, was little more than a private secretary to the two gentlemen who together filled the office and who jointly held the title of Postmaster-General.

3. The office of Court-Post was held by Penton for over 50 years. The Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry, which met in 1787, discovered that this gentleman employed a deputy, who, in return for an allowance of £58 a year, performed the whole duty for which his employer received £730! (See Joyce, p. 231.)

4. Mr. Joyce repeatedly calls attention to the absurd disproportion which salaries in those days generally bore to actual income, and those of our readers who possess our second volume will find several other instances mentioned in the article entitled "The Pot and the Kettle"; while many incidental notes will be found in Mr. Ogilvie's articles in our first volume (see especially p. 81.)

We have said that the salary set down against an officer's name often bore but a distant relation to his official income. We will give an illustration. In the foregoing establishment Henry Potts\* appears as Comptroller of the Inland Office, at a salary of £200. He had been only recently appointed; and the appointment, when it became vacant, had been offered to each of the six Clerks of the Road, in turn, and had by them been refused. The truth is, that their total receipts were higher than his, although their salaries, with one exception, were lower by more than two-thirds.

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\* For a further account of Mr. Potts and Mr. Todd see page 229.

This inequality between salaries and actual receipts did not escape notice at the time. Lord Leicester was struck with it, and he determined to redress the balance. This is how he set about it. He ordered that the six Clerks of the Roads should, out of the profits they derived from newspapers, pay to Potts, as the head of their Department, the sum of £50 a year apiece, and, as showing how high these profits were, he declared that, even so, Potts' total emoluments would be less than their own. Against this order the Clerks of the Roads appealed, and it is interesting to note how their appeal was dealt with.

Lord Leicester was at Holkham, and thence came his mandate, under date the 26th of February. "As for Saxby," he wrote—Saxby, it will be seen, was Clerk of the Kent Road—"he has shown himself, on many occasions, to be so unreasonable a man, that I have ordered him to be now dismissed, for I will bear with him no longer." The others were given room for repentance. "You have not," continued His Lordship, "obeyed the order I caused some time ago to be entered, for which reason you ought every one of you to be dismissed, and if you think that order hard you may leave the office; but, if you do not immediately obey it, and pay the whole that I ordered, both for last quarter and this, you must leave it, for I have sent peremptory orders to the Secretary to dismiss immediately the first that refuses."

It was not the appeal that angered Lord Leicester, as he was careful to note. "I do not take ill your petition, however false I know the allegations to be. I am always willing that people should apply in a decent manner; but what I take ill is your not obeying an order formally made and entered in the books." And then come overtures to the Clerks of the Roads to be better boys for the future. "I send this open to the Secretary that my order may be publicly known, which, if you readily obey and behave yourselves as you ought to do in your offices, you will still find me

"Your affectionate friend,

"LEICESTER."

Saxby was afterwards reinstated at the instance of Henry Legge, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Again, we find that the committee of 1787 reported as follows in regard to Augustus Pechell, the then Receiver-General:—

"His attendance is generally three days in the week, viz., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, those being the established official days of receipt and payment."

His salary and emoluments were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salary £300, reduced by taxes to ... ..	232	10	0
From the Bye and Cross Road Office ... ..	75	0	0
Fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon pensions paid to the Duke of Grafton and the heirs of the Duke of Schom- berg ... ..	43	10	0
Fee of 1 per cent. on money remitted to the Post- masters of Paris, Brussels, and Amsterdam ...	80	0	0
For coach hire ... ..	13	0	0
Drink and feast money ... ..	1	17	0
	<u>£445</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>

Also 10 chaldron of coal, 32 dozen pounds of candles annually, and stationery. It also appears that he “occasionally derives an advantage from the use of public money in his hands.”

The same report tells us that the salary and emoluments of William Fauquier, Junior, Esq., the Accountant-General, amounted to £409 7s. a year. “His attendance is as occasion requires,” and “he is allowed a deputy,” who attends from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

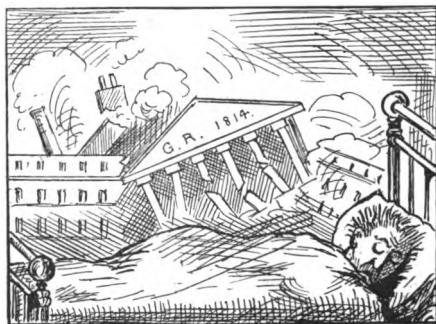
## *A Dire Calamity.*



DREAMED one night a fearful dream ! I saw the  
G.P.O.

Stagger and topple headlong down in one convulsive  
throe :

Mail trains collided right and left in all the country round ;  
The coping of the Savings Bank fell thundering to the ground ;



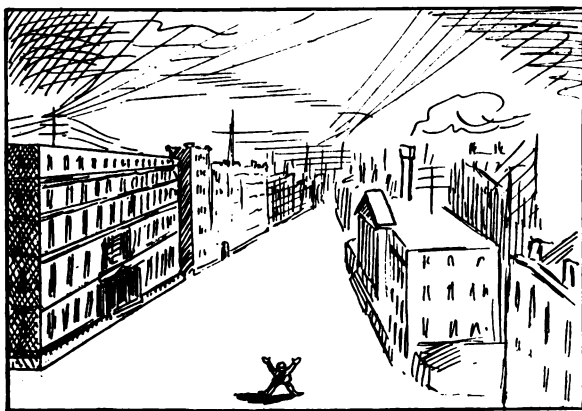
The telegraphs were torn to shreds, and with a hideous crash  
The General Postal Service went to universal smash :  
The havoc and the wreck were such as no one would believe :—  
You wonder what had caused all this ? P. G. had gone on leave.

I always thought it would be so ! The work he had to do  
Was of such vast importance, and so intricate, that few  
Could ever hope to tackle it and yet survive the strain :  
Ten men who tried to take his place went one by one insane ;



And he himself was well aware that, if he once let go,  
The Service, nay, the World would reel, dumbfounded by the blow ;  
So like a hero to his post did that brave spirit cleave,  
But now at last the time had come—P. G. had gone on leave !

I rose at once and dressed myself,—put on my coat and hat ;  
My breakfast was not ready yet—I did not care for that.  
I fretted with anxiety to know the latest news,  
And streams of perspiration ran meandering to my shoes.



For three long hours I wandered in my garden up and down,  
Then took a dose of citrate, and the early train to town,  
And found P. G. HAD gone on leave ; but, wonderful to say,  
*The G.P.O. was going on in just the usual way !*

LEO WOLFE.

## Mr. Morley and the Association of Chambers of Commerce.



AT the Annual Meeting of this body, on the 14th March, the Postmaster - General was present, and gave an address, of which the following is the substance:—He had very great sympathy with the extension of *telegraphic communication between this country and other parts of the world*. The time might come when the Department with which he was connected might have more direct control over those telegraphic communications, but at the present time, with the exception of certain cables across the Channel to the Continent of Europe, they had no control over the foreign Imperial telegraphic cables of the world. They were in the hands of able companies, which, he thought, had given satisfaction to the public at large, not always with regard to the rates they had charged to the commercial world, but in the able manner in which they had carried on a great Imperial, world-wide business. He should certainly put no difficulty in the way, and should be prepared to give the advantage of the experience he had gained at the Post Office in helping on any reasonable extension of the system of Imperial communication between the different parts of this great Empire.

### CASH ON DELIVERY.

With regard to the motion which was to be submitted to the Association by the Bradford Chamber—as to the time now being ripe for the adoption by the Post Office authorities of the cash-on-delivery system in connection with the Parcel Post—that the members of the Association were more or less recent converts to this point of view. In the year 1890 such a proposition was only carried by the Associated Chamber of Commerce by the casting vote of the chairman. It was true that the Post Office collection of trade charges had been carried into effect in other countries, such as France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, but it should be remembered that the principle had been adopted with practically unanimous approval in those countries. There was no evidence before him to show that, taking the commercial classes as a whole, they were of



one mind in this matter. He had, it was true, received a memorial signed by over 3,000 dealers in London in favour of the proposal, but he had also received memorials in antagonism to that proposal from fifty-one Town Councils, from places like Birkenhead, Brighton, Cambridge, Exeter, and even from the constituency of Canterbury a resolution was sent condemnatory of the system of the Post Office collection of trade charges, which might press with great severity on the small retail traders. He had, however, of late not received any communications on this subject either for or against the proposal, and although personally he believed the time would come when the principle would be brought into operation, the Post Office could not as a Department go in advance of public opinion in this direction, and no change of such a character could be adopted without it was felt that the principle was being strongly supported throughout the country.

#### NEWSPAPER RATES.

The next question to which his attention was called was the one emanating from the Dublin Chamber, which urged "that all publications registered as newspapers issued periodically in paper wrappers be, as regards postage rates, removed from the classification of book packets, and carried within the United Kingdom on the following terms:—That all restrictions as to advertisements and dating on each page of the publication be removed, but that it be a condition that the date of publication be placed on the first page or wrapper of each issue; and that the postage rate should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each copy up to eight ounces, and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each further eight ounces." He had carefully read that resolution, but it had not left a clear impression on his mind as to what was the exact nature of the proposal advocated. He was altogether against the multiplication of these rates, believing that they had too many of them at the present time. And if his connection with the Post Office Department lasted long enough he should be extremely anxious to see whether it would not be possible to revise the existing rates and simplify them by lessening the great variety of charges, which were so puzzling to all who had to deal with them. One condition of change would be that there would be a reasonable limitation of the weight at which newspapers could go at the cheap rate. There was no such limit to newspapers at the present time. A considerable number of them exceeded a pound in weight, and they went for a halfpenny. This meant a serious loss to the exchequer at the Post Office, and it meant a loss to the taxpayers, for in sending other things through the Post they had to pay higher

than they otherwise would, in order to compensate the Treasury for the loss incurred on the carriage of newspapers. There should be some reasonable limitation as to the maximum of the weight at which periodicals could be sent by the cheap rate. If this were generally agreed to, then there might be a fair prospect of a revision, and such a concession would be of great advantage in the direction indicated by the resolution before that Chamber. As he had said, the Post Office suffered a large loss on the newspaper rates. If only the representatives of the Press as a whole would agree to some reasonable concession and alteration in the matter of postal rates on newspapers, it would greatly facilitate arrangements, and be of very great advantage to the public at large. Whilst himself in favour of the simplification of existing rates, he was somewhat afraid that the tendency of the resolution would be productive of a loss to the Exchequer. In America they had what was called "second-class" mail matter, including newspapers, periodicals, and certain classes of printed matter; and he found in the interesting report of the Postmaster-General of the United States that whereas in 1887 but 126,000,000 pounds weight of this second-class mail was carried, in the year 1893 the weight of that mail matter was 256,000,000 pounds. The finances, however, showed that for the year ending June, 1894—after deducting postage paid and not taking into account sorting and delivery—the American Government carried this mail at a loss to the revenue of 16,973,000 dollars, which was equivalent to nearly £3,200,000.

#### TELEGRAPH RATES.

With reference to the resolutions dealing with telegraphic reform submitted by the Cardiff Chamber urging a reduction in the cost of commercial telegrams and registration fees for telegraphic addresses, and suggesting the expediency of revising the existing arrangements with regard to Press messages, Mr. Morley thought the Postmaster-General would be a very brave, not to say a very reckless, statesman who would run counter to a great body such as that of the Press in this country by withdrawing the concessions which had been for years granted in connection with Press messages. He had to admit that the arrangement made when the Government took over the telegraphs was a bad one for the State, but concessions once made were difficult to alter. He was not far wrong in stating that the total loss in connection with Press messages was fully a quarter of a million sterling every year. Neither the Press nor the commercial messages led to any gain or profit to the Department; and the fee

for abbreviated telegraphic addresses did not cover the expenses which the Department incurred in connection therewith, while it seriously delayed the delivery of telegrams to those who did not pay for a registered address.

#### UNDERGROUND WIRES.

Reverting to the resolution on the subject of telegraphic inter-communication between all commercial and seaport towns—"under such conditions as to render it no longer possible of interruption by storms"—Mr. Morley said he had heard it stated that Parliament could do everything but compel a man to go home. He devoutly wished a discovery might be made which would enable his Department to secure perfect telegraphic inter-communication under such conditions as to "render it no longer possible of interruption by storms." To carry out the idea of the resolution, as he understood it, underground cables would largely have to be used in place of overhead wires, and the former were more expensive than the latter. The underground cables wore out twice as quickly, and the renewal of them cost two and a half times as much as the others. He had obtained one estimate for supplementing the existing system of overhead wires and securing uniformity of communication between London and various parts of the kingdom. It provided for connecting London with 66 of the principal provincial towns, and for making 88 lines of junction between those towns. It was found that the cost of such a scheme would amount to £2,500,000, but in view of the serious deficit in the telegraph revenue, they could well understand that the Treasury would not look at any such proposals without the greatest misgiving. He explained that with a view to minimising delay, arrangements had been made in the nature of alternative systems of communication between important telegraphic centres; there being three routes to Scotland and two routes between London and the West of England. Mr. Morley, in conclusion, spoke of the great development which had taken place in telegraphic communication during the past twenty-five years, and expressed a hope that now the Government had taken over the trunk telephone wires, this system of communication might eventually be greatly developed in the interests of the community. He assured the Associated Chambers that he would always carefully consider any resolutions that they brought under his notice, and he was very pleased to have had the opportunity of meeting them on that occasion.

## *The Combination Again.*

[This article, which refers to events which took place in 1893, was sent to us several months ago, but has been unavoidably held over.—EDITOR.]

**I**T has been represented to me that, in consequence of the abrupt and somewhat compromising ending to the holiday notes I published last year under the title, "*A Civil Service Combination*," many readers of this journal expect from me, in a second chapter, something in the nature of an account of my honeymoon trip. If I am not equal to this realistic effort or imaginative flight, whichever it may be, I am told I shall be put down as a heartless deceiver and a trifler with the affections of fair and lively Americans. So when I realized what was expected of me, I wrote to "*La Belle Americaine*," who is now on a visit to her native heath, and I asked her pointedly whether she felt equal to a honeymoon trip with me in *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, and I said that without her permission, I felt considerable diffidence in using her name again in these pages. Her answer was characteristic and to the point. "I guess, after the roasting I have already experienced at your hands, you may as well go the whole bag of tricks." This reply left me, it will be seen, at full liberty to write a glowing account of our happy marriage and of our wedding tour, while my readers' ideas of poetic justice would have been completely satisfied. But looking at the matter from a commercial point of view I became convinced that to adopt this course would involve a grievous journalistic mistake.

A very far-seeing journalist said to me, "It will damn you to get married at this stage; there is plenty of material to work upon for several more chapters; keep it up a little longer until at least the sale begins to fall off. Then run away with her, and you will find that a dash of impropriety will at once send up the sale." In the commercial interests of this journal I must, therefore, again fall

back on *A Civil Service Combination*, while promising my well-wishers, if they will continue to support us, that at the proper time their curiosity as to the sequel of last year's story shall be abundantly satisfied.

In the following pages, for artistic purposes, I must, then, be regarded as a single man travelling in Switzerland with such members of last year's Combination as could be induced to join my society. For from the outset there was little or no combination. Disintegration marked all our attempts to form ourselves together after the pattern of our first trip. Not one of our party started on the same day nor by the same route, and each and all held different and apparently irreconcilable views as to the way in which a holiday should be spent. Yet there was so much magnetism in our various personalities that, during the last week of our tour, four members of the Combination of 1892 actually spent several days together in the Vale of Chamouni. Each and all said, "We cannot stand this separate action any longer; we will be brethren." B. had started his holiday in a temper, at Southsea, after long debates and quarrels with us over continental time tables. A week at Southsea was enough for him and he then crossed the channel in search of the Combination. H. went to Aix les Bains to try a cure for his rheumatism and at the end of his time made tracks for the Combination. R. intended spending the month in a sea-side place with the girl of his choice, but after two days of this sort of thing he took a ticket for Geneva and advertised for the whereabouts of the Combination. C. missed us altogether this year. He started for Dublin by boat, and on the way caught sight of a bay near the Land's End convenient for bathing purposes, and he spent his leave there. All that I have been able to get from him, as the net result of his tour, is that he had eighty swims and plenty of bitter beer. But I believe he never ceased to wish that he had been with the Combination.

This dismembered and discontented Combination managed however, in spite of adverse circumstances, to see a great deal for their money, while the opportunities for fun were certainly not less than in 1892.

We spent a great portion of our time at Chamouni, staying in the Hôtel Beau-Site, kept by one Sylvain Couttet, Ancien Guide et Fondateur des Chalets de Pierre Pointue et des Grands Mulets. Sylvain Couttet was an enterprising man and a hotel-keeper who deserved to succeed. He pursued his business with a singleness of

purpose and a superiority to the ordinary laws of nature which at once won the admiration of men like ourselves, the end and object of whose lives is to "pass over" the men in front of us in our departments. In the picture which adorns his hotel card, those who know Chamouni will at once see that in order to show off his house to the best advantage, M. Couttet has not scrupled to remove Mont Blanc and the adjacent mountains from the front to the back of his hotel. As a view, therefore, of Chamouni the picture is absolutely worthless, and it is valuable to me simply as an illustration of the workings of the mind of our genial and courageous host. It certainly brings back to my mind M. Couttet and his methods better than it does Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles. M. Couttet had ascended Mont Blanc no less than 40 times, and this excessive familiarity with the mountain doubtless accounts for the liberties he takes with her in the picture.

The beauty of Chamouni is only revealed to the man or woman who lingers long and lovingly in her society. There is no doubt that to those who judge a Swiss view by the amount of snow one can see from any given point, Chamouni is disappointing, especially when you first come upon the place. That was, I remember distinctly, my impression on my first visit, but it did not last, nay, it gave place to an affection as strong as any I have felt in other years for spots where I can indulge my love for the mountains.

B's first impression of Chamouni can hardly be called one of disappointment. On the contrary, he went into raptures over the place on a post-card which he wrote to H., who was still at Aix les Bains. Here is an extract from that card:—

"Come here by all means, and time your arrival for the six o'clock table d'hôte, not the seven. I am always afraid of warm-ups at the seven. The washing water is soft."

Altogether a card eminently characteristic of B. Not a word about the biggest mountain in Europe, which was towering just above his head, with the rose-glow spreading itself over her lovely crest at the very moment he was writing. Later on he might look up and notice that there was something huge obstructing the view: at present he was content with what he had simply sampled. The abandonment of East Molesey and his housekeeper had this year been justified by results: *the washing water was soft*.

Although Sylvain Couttet had done fearful execution on Mont Blanc in his hotel card, there was no doubt as to his great love for the mountain. To see him standing by himself in his garden

shading his eyes as he looked proudly up at the mountain he had so often conquered, when he had been less corpulent, was quite touching. Nothing pleased him better than for you to join him and to listen to his twice-told tales, and to allow him to take you on a telescope tour up the mountain. While we were at Chamouni, a French scientific professor, Dr. Janssen, aged 74, was carried up the mountain by fifteen guides in order to test the instruments in the observatory which the French government had established on the summit. He stayed a week at the top and at the end of that time he was brought down in the same way. We went with others to meet him, about nine o'clock one Saturday night, with Chinese lanterns. The old man had borne his terrible experiences of storm and cold very well, and before going into his lodgings, he stood for a time at his door pouring out champagne and handing it to the guides. He then proposed in a neat little speech the health of the guides of Chamouni. He referred to Whymper and other great Alpine climbers, and in a graceful way threw the honour of their ascents very largely on the Alpine guides who had so often sacrificed their lives in the service of their masters. I was much struck with the manner in which these Swiss mountaineers displayed their appreciation of this old hero. In England we should have shouted ourselves hoarse and have carried the old man on our shoulders round the town. In Chamouni they gave just one muffled cheer and spent the rest of the time gazing with rapt attention on the professor, and at every opportunity catching hold of his hand and pressing it in perfect silence. It was most picturesque to see this rugged-featured old man, with white hair and a very tired expression of countenance, standing in the candle light, pointing with one hand to Mont Blanc and holding his glass high in the other, telling us that he was not the hero of the hour ; it was the brave, the intrepid, the honest, the world-renowned Alpine guides who had rendered his journey possible. "Je bois aux guides de Chamouni," he concluded ; and in a moment he had slipped into the house and was warming himself by a log fire. And the silence of the quiet vale of Chamouni was broken by the repeated booming of the village cannon, which is always fired at the completion of an ascent of Mont Blanc.

There was something very fascinating in the mere sitting out in the garden of our hotel and looking up at this mountain. Yet Mont Blanc possesses very little beauty of outline, and compared with the lovely Aiguilles, her near neighbours, she has little, indeed, to boast of. Still, in August and September there is generally in fine weather

some ascent or descent taking place, and with the aid of a telescope you can almost follow the climbers from start to finish. But for beauty the Aiguilles beat the big mountain all to fits. Their pointed slate-coloured tops are just dusted with snow, and they seem to pierce right into the sky, whereas Mont Blanc, which in turn towers above them, seems still a long way off the blue dome. So much difference does the mere shape and outline make in a snow mountain. The only picture I have brought away with me from Switzerland this year is a sketch of the Aiguilles drawn especially for me by a fair American. For next to M. Couttet the most interesting personality at our hotel was the lady I must for convenience speak of as "*La Belle Americaine No. 2.*" She was always in the thick of any fun that was going, and her pluck and courage were the admiration of everybody. Like all her countrymen and countrywomen she wanted to see everything there was to be seen and to do everything that could be done. Nay, she was always prompting me to do mad and happy-go-lucky things, and together we shocked sometimes, I fear, the susceptibilities of the conventional English visitors. She was intensely patriotic, and, for an American, was strangely prejudiced against England. But I attribute this largely to her love of argument, and to her manifest delight in drawing people out and, as she confessed to me she learnt more of England by this method than any other, it was evidently a part of her system of self-culture. I like, however, to think her attacks on my country were the outcome of pure cussedness, because her insincere moods were always more charming than when she tried to play a more serious part.

I have never met anybody to equal B. in his indifference to the fair sex. For instance, a rather pretty girl sat next him at dinner every night, and as he is a nice looking man himself, she was evidently not averse to talking to him. About the third day I asked him what he thought of his fair neighbour, and he said quite genuinely and without a trace of affectation that he had not noticed her. I told him that she evidently felt his silence and indifference, and this appeal to his natural kindness of heart seemed to quite touch him. He said he would make a point of talking to her that same evening, and true to his word before the soup was removed, or rather the plates, he had asked her kindly what she had been doing with herself all day. She at once coloured up, seemed confused, and looked hard at B. just as if she thought he had been drinking. For the fact of the matter is we had been up the Brévent that day, and this girl and her sisters had been with us the whole time, and B. had not been



conscious of anybody in particular, as he cruelly said, being present. "I knew there were a lot of women about with us, of course, but I didn't notice who was who." He generally speaks of women in the abstract as "cats," and he utters the word to the accompaniment of an unmistakable and characteristic hiss ; but if one of the sex happens to tell him he has a nice voice or that he has pretty hair, or artfully insinuates that he is under 35, he becomes at once in her hands like clay in the hands of the potter. Unlike Samson his strength does not lie in his hair, and if any modern Delilah wishes to subdue him, she need only take the hint I have given her.

I sometimes fancy that in his early days B. must have been disappointed, or that he was treated badly by some siren who was unworthy of him, but then I remember he is just as prejudiced against certain types of the male sex. Among special victims of his cruel hate are Dissenters, members of the Church Association, Her Majesty's Treasury, Postmasters-General, past and present, and the leading permanent officials of the General Post Office. His favourite topic of conversation, even on a glacier, is the torture and mutilation which, if he had his way, he would apply to the men of his department. It is distressing to hear him openly advocating all kinds of lingering deaths for his superior officers, and were we not his juniors and cognisant of all his little peculiarities, we should take stronger steps than the mere getting out of earshot of him, which we habitually do when he begins to improvise a commination service of his own. But perhaps the man whom B. despises the most is the innocent Protestant clergyman one meets occasionally abroad, who is the temporary minister of some little Church of England place of worship, built for the purpose of satisfying the spiritual wants of our insular-minded fellow countrymen, who must have their particular form of religion brought to their doors even in a foreign country. B. created great unpleasantness in our hotel by saying in a loud voice at dinner, loud enough for a minister of this description to hear, that "all who supported the Church of England abroad were guilty of the sin of schism."

The remark was intended primarily for the clergyman though it was addressed to me. I had been escorted by La Belle Americaine to the English church that afternoon, and I had carried the bag round in the most approved ecclesiastical style. The sermon I thought admirably characteristic of the church of my fathers. It was a defence of Nicodemus and cowardice in religion, and could be summed up in the words, "Better have a religion and be ashamed of

it, than have none and brag of it." When I told B. this, he merely said the man was a schismatic and it did not much matter what he said, the punishment of schism was clearly and definitely laid down in the Canons of the Church. No wonder our poor clergyman winced at this dogmatism of B., and indeed, I would sometimes have given worlds to have seen a little more of the spirit of Nicodemus animating our friend.

From Chamouni we went over the Tête Noire to Martigny and thence to Zermatt, walking the whole distance, with the exception of the bit of railway from Martigny to Visp. It is a wearisome road, that from Visp to St. Nicholas, but the road over the Tête Noire is grand and beautiful every inch of the way. We did it in a pouring rain and in thunder and lightning, and even under these conditions we thought it delightful. But from Visp to St. Nicholas was a terrible walk and very exhausting after the morning's walk over the Tête Noire, and never have I been so ready to echo Dr. Johnson's dictum that "there is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn." In one sense our good tavern at St. Nicholas was depressing. "Ichabod" should have been engraved on its front door. Three years ago it was no uncommon sight to see 350 guests during the day arrive at this hotel, and on the 10th September, this year, with the season still in progress, there were three other visitors besides ourselves. The railway, with one fell swoop, had taken away the custom of the hôtel and had half destroyed the little village. We were told that as the first train went through there was scarcely a dry eye in St. Nicholas: the people were praying in the streets and sobbing as they saw the wherewithal by which they lived passing away from them in that train. All this was told us, and much more, by the hotel proprietor's wife, who was an Englishwoman, and by her sister who was the head waitress. "My husband can't stop in the house," the wife pathetically said, "He can't bear to see it as it is, remembering what it was, and so he leaves it to me and goes shooting to forget his trouble. Men are selfish aren't they," she said, "he thinks I don't mind, because I have learnt the chief lesson of a woman's life, viz., to grin and bear." Her sister promptly said that only Swiss men were selfish, from which I concluded that she was not going to follow her sister's example and take a husband from that country, and that an Englishman had at least a chance with her. She is a pretty girl, with a delightfully fresh country complexion; she has excellent

business habits, talks French, German, and a local patois, and I don't charge for this advertisement.

The walk from Visp to Zermatt is certainly worth doing. It was a perfect morning the day we started, not a cloud was in the sky, and there was just enough breeze to make the air cool and refreshing. Besides we were climbing all the way and beginning to get into the real mountain air. On this road you go for a great part of the distance at the foot of the Weisshorn, which Tyndall calls "the noblest of all the Alps," and though he spoke with the natural pride of a climber who had been the first to climb the redoubtable mountain, the more one sees of Switzerland, the more one comes round to his view. Wherever it is seen, and from whatever point of view, it is the one perfectly shaped mountain in the panorama before you. Much of its beauty doubtless depends on its isolated position and the way in which it is hung, as one would say of a picture. But it *is* superb, however much you may try to explain its peerlessness away. Even on the Gorner Grat, with the glorious, irregular mass of rock and snow called Monte Rosa as you look southwards, and with the Matterhorn to the west, filling you with amazement and gratified curiosity, the craving for pure beauty of outline and colour draws your eye irresistably to where the Weisshorn rises. And it rests there satisfied. Magnificent, grand, threatening, terrible, awful, and wonderful are the adjectives continually on one's lips at Zermatt: the view from the Gorner Grat is magnificent: it is striking, but it lacks the beauty of the view of the Oberland one obtains from Mürren, and were it not for the Weisshorn, the poor tourist, who soon tires of the terrible, would be just a bit disappointed. As it is, his love of the beautiful is quite gratified in this mountain. No other adjectives but those expressive of beauty come to everybody's lips, though the Weisshorn yields to none of her rivals in magnificence, in terribleness, and in the power to create wonder. But the difference is that these are one's secondary impressions.

In all the last-named attributes the Matterhorn is of course supreme. It is late in the day for any writer to talk of the solitary grandeur of this mountain, or to rave of its wonderful form and colour. It seems at Zermatt to have a living personality of its own, and to stand there as a perpetual challenge to the inhabitants of the valley to scale its apparently unscaleable sides. "It worries me," said an apparently quiet, staid, middle-aged man to me on the Riffelberg, "to see that mountain looking so threatening and impudent." And with a sigh he added, "But for my wife and six

children I should have a try." People talk about the foolhardiness of tourists on the Alps. These people know nothing of the magnetic power of a big mountain; they have never heard the song it always sings to the man who has anything of the mountaineer's spirit within him. All that I know is that he who hears that song is carried away just as a man is carried away sometimes in his love for a woman. It is the same kind of foolhardiness, there is a nobility about it, and it often leads to as tragic results. Some time before we arrived at Zermatt there had been an accident on the Matterhorn. A young guide aged 19 or 20 had induced an Italian gentleman to climb the mountain and to descend by a new route. The new route was never discovered and they were both killed in the attempt. We were told by the waitress at St. Nicholas, who knew this guide, that he was quite mad about the Matterhorn. He was a registered guide, but at all times of the year he was on the mountain, whether he had any companion or not. "The mountain," she said, "came first in his affection, before mother or sister or brother." And on that fatal morning when he started out on his last climb his sister went down on her knees to beg him to desist from the perilous enterprise. "You are going to your death," she said, pointing to the mountain. He smiled with the confidence of youth, and with all youth's recklessness and imagination he replied, waving his hand, "And what more beautiful death than to die on the Matterhorn." These were his last words to his family, and like Shelley, who was drowned in the Mediterranean he loved so well, there was an element of irony in his fate. Certainly foolhardiness is not the last judgment to be passed on such a fate. Foolhardiness! Why, I heard middle-aged and corpulent ladies on the Riffelberg asking the price of mules to the top of the Matterhorn, and preparing to risk their lives and fortunes in the attempt. The frenzy seizes everybody, bishops and deans, lawyers and stockbrokers, mothers of families and lady clerks, manservants and maidservants, married and single; and those who don't climb the mountain are restrained, not by Christianity or prudence or by thought for others, but because they can't go up at store prices. They feel the frenzy none the less, and you recognize this type of individual when you hear anybody depreciating the Matterhorn and saying that it is all made as easy as a walk up Primrose Hill. They know this is a lie, but it comforts them in their poverty.

On the Riffelberg, where we slept the night, I met a nephew of the great Leslie Stephen, who was the first to climb many of the higher

Alps. He was an interesting man, and possessed much of his uncle's mountaineering instinct. I was amused at the way in which he spoke of the Shreckhorn and the Roth-horn. "They are my uncle's mountains," he said proudly, with the air of one who had a share in the family property.

On the return from Visp to Martigny the railway journey was spoilt by two ladies in the next compartment quarrelling in that finished and exasperating way which seems to come naturally to the fair sex. "My love, I think you are wrong." "Darling, surely I must know." "But, my dearest, I saw it with my own eyes." "My love, you *are* exasperating." "Dearest, you really must not talk to me like that." "Do you hear, love"? "Love, I spoke to you. How lovely this Rhone Valley and these castles are. Dear, do you see them"? But the dear darling had moved out of earshot and was crying in the opposite corner of the carriage with a handkerchief stuffed into her mouth, at intervals enjoying the scenery on her own account, and looking oaths at her travelling companion. I almost handed her a grape out of pure sympathy, and her feminine instinct seemed to grasp my intention, for fresh tears were visible in her eyes whenever I cast a sympathetic glance at her corner. I regret I did not then and there offer her a place in the Combination, for at any rate when *we* quarrel we suit our language to the situation. But I missed my opportunity.

This could but have happened once,  
And we missed it, lost it for ever.

Back at Chamouni we lingered there for a few days longer, climbing some lesser heights, playing croquet with La Belle Americaine No. 2, and learning the art of living from Sylvain Couttet. We stayed one night in Geneva, a veritable "city of dulness," and another night in Paris, "the enchanted city." And the Combination finally broke down at the Gare St. Lazare, and after separating from my colleagues, who were returning *viâ* Newhaven, I found myself in the afternoon crossing from Boulogne to Folkestone in the "Mary Beatrice." During one of the angriest crossings I have ever experienced I managed to consume, amongst other items, the contents of a bottle of Bass. To him who has been for a month subsisting on light wines and liqueurs the thought that his holiday is over is tempered by the joy of once more attacking the national beverage. To a healthy stomach and a sane mind there is nothing in the world of drinks to approach it; and the bitterness of leaving Fair France after so many days spent in exploring her beauties, to the healthy man has its consolations.

The last few days of my holidays I spent roaming about in Kent, sometimes driving, at other times walking, and with the beauty of English village scenery constantly before me I recognized that in Nature as well as in human life there are "diversities of gifts." I am not at all sure that I did not even indulge in the vicious habit of comparison to the disadvantage of the Alps. "Foreign parts were all very well," as the Kentish labourer said when he crossed from Tilbury to Gravesend, "but give me old England for ever."

And on the last day of my holiday, as I wandered through the aisles of Canterbury Cathedral for perhaps the hundredth time in my life, I wondered to myself why there should be this mad passion to leave one's country every year. And then I remembered it was not until I had travelled that I had really understood and appreciated at their true worth the beauties of my own country, and that to know what the English Cathedral really is in its relation to other works of art, one can only judge by comparison. To a man who has not travelled, all that he sees in his own country is comparatively devoid of any national distinctiveness, and an English Cathedral is to him a cathedral without any peculiar national characteristic. Only the traveller recognizes the building as English and loves it accordingly.

I went to see an old servant in Canterbury who I heard was much depressed about her money matters. She and her husband had saved during their married life, something over £200, and she could not sleep at nights for thinking of whether it was safe in the Post Office, and what would happen if she died. I quieted all her fears by recitations from the usual letters and from the usual forms, "I may add"ed till I was nearly black in the face, and I drew up a will which the old lady signed, containing an attestation clause, and the will was signed in the presence of two witnesses. Dear old lady! She said a day or two afterwards, to the vicar of her parish, that now she knew Mr. Edward was in the business she could sleep at nights: she felt her money was safe. Government security conveyed no meaning to her; "On Her Majesty's Service" represented nothing but an artful decoy and a possible swindle, even our good-hearted chief who acknowledged her deposits, she hinted, might, for all she knew, be another Jabez Spencer Balfour. "You see, Sir, I live oppersite the prison and I do see a lot of crime a goin' in and out of one sort and another, and it brings it 'ome to me like, makes me serspishus, and when I reads out to my 'usband abart the Labarater and Balfour, we says one to another, 'If we can git it out of the Savins Bank we'll either bury it in the gardin or hask our

clergyman to 'old it for us.' Then my 'usband says, 'Of course, if this 'ere Postmister or Controller habsconds to the Hargenteries, we are in for a nice cup of tea.' And now that I know from you, Sir, he is still in the country and 'as 'is 'ealth, I feel that thankful I could a'most embrace you. Seein' all these poor prisoners a goin' in and out to their doom do make me so serspishus, and I feels that ashamed of myself to think so of a gentleman who is a kind friend to you. May 'e forgive me."

"I may add" that I have inserted this story in order to comply with the regulations laid down by our estimable editor, that every article must bear some relation to departmental matters. So closely identified as I have been with the magazine it was felt that for me to set the example of breaking a salutary rule would be unfortunate. I have purposely left the pill, or rather the shop, until the end, and now that it is over I hope that it will not leave a nasty taste in my readers' mouths. If it should do so, here is one last picture from Switzerland.

We have climbed up one of the highest mountains in the Mont Blanc chain. Never mind which—the price is 30 francs, and the day is one of those absolutely cloudless days which are usually so rare in the Alps, but which this summer have been the rule rather than the exception. Never have I seen so glorious a view and under such favourable atmospheric conditions. The sky is that dark indigo blue so familiar to climbers, and the outlines of all the principal mountains are clearly defined. The silence is almost terrible and yet anything in the shape of noise jars against one's sense of the fitness of things. I drop into a dreamy and speculative mood, as, wearied after the long climb, I lie on a rock overlooking the precipice. All the puny efforts of man, and my own little foolish attempts to make for myself a position in London are seen in their true perspective, and are either forgotten or are treated as trivial. The present is so wonderful and beautiful that so far as my own mind is concerned, I have no past or future. If I allow my mind to dwell on the matter at all, it is in the form of the great Carlylean questions. "What am I? Whence came I? Whither am I going? Do I count for anything in this huge universe and among these awful natural forces?" And then there comes to me the recollection of a fine quotation from Pascal, a quotation which in my case, when it is recalled, never fails to dissipate, like the sunshine, all the scepticism in my nature.

"All bodies, the firmament, the stars, the earth, and its kingdoms, are not worth so much as the smallest of minds, for it knows all them and itself, and the bodies nothing. All bodies together and all minds

together and all their productions are not worth the least movement of charity ; that belongs to an order infinitely higher."

Immediately I recover my mental balance and the mountain and the precipice seem less overwhelming. Moreover, I hear voices. I remember I have companions. What is it they are saying? What is the effect this exquisite view is having upon them?

*First Voice:* "I wonder who'll get the next vacancy."

*Second Voice:* "They do say J. is in the running."

*First Voice:* "What! that creeper? He knows how to play *his* cards."

*Second Voice:* "Of course K. has got a chance."

*First Voice:* "Never!"

*Second Voice:* "I believe he'll get it too."

*First Voice:* "Why, he is 156 on the list. They can't do it."

*Second Voice:* "So the lawyer said when he saw his client in the stocks, but they did it all the same."

*First Voice:* "Well all I can say, it is a blank shame."

And the sun sets over the snow mountains in front of us, and the rose glow spreads itself over the snow slopes, and one by one the stars peep out of the sky before we reach home on this divine evening, and there are still voices in our party, discussing the policy and discipline of the Savings Bank Department. Yet in spite of all I have written, there will, I suppose, be scoffers ready to say that our tour had no official significance and that no room should have been found for this article in the pages of *St. Martin's-le-Grand*.

EDWARD BENNETT.

Savings Bank Department.



## *The Post Office Guarantee Association.*

**T**HOSE readers of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* who are shareholders in the above-named Guarantee Association must have been deeply interested in the very able analysis of its working, as described by Mr. H. C. Hart in the January number of this magazine. The subject is one which has engaged my attention for a considerable period, and, personally, I am much indebted to Mr. Hart for the clear manner in which he detailed the rapid and phenomenal progress of the Association. The saving effected, in premiums especially, by those who joined early, has been enormous, and it is incontrovertible that the Committee who inaugurated the Association conferred a great boon upon the Service generally. Fortunately our official heads are always most anxious to aid and encourage thrift and self-help amongst the staff. It is not because I disagree with Mr. Hart that this article is penned, but rather to point out what in one or two respects may be considered an even more excellent way. My suggestions are the result of a desire to aid all efforts that are made to further the great principle of mutual co-operation. Mr. Hart states that the Association "exists only at the pleasure of the Postmaster General; and for its prosperity depends on his goodwill, etc." Now there cannot be a doubt that in the first book of rules there was a simplicity and a motive so disinterested as to go a long way in influencing Mr. Raikes, who was then Postmaster General, as well as the Financial Secretary of the day, in deciding to accept the bonds of this semi-official association, as it may be termed. Under rule No. 9, it appeared as if each member were only intended to take and hold such a number of shares as should represent, in respect of every £100, the amount of security which such member is from time to time called upon to furnish, and further, that the entrance fee was to be 1/- per share, with the reservation that, in subsequent years,

the Committee could raise such fee to a sum not exceeding 5/- per share. Obviously, the idea clearly predominant was that of mutuality, whereby the greatest possible number should have the option of entering at a most reasonable figure.

Success came at once, and has continued ever since. Probably it has been too complete. To my thinking, the Postmaster General could not approve of the variations from these simple and fundamental principles, if the rules as now amended and as now carried out were placed before him in connection with the establishment of a similar guarantee association. We have left our first principles, and that not without warning, as may be traced in past annual reports.

In rule 9 it was arranged that "No member shall have or claim an interest in the funds of the Society exceeding £200 sterling," but the preceding paragraph implies that each member was, as before stated, only to take shares to the amount which he was officially "called upon to furnish." We now find that all members are invited to take the full forty shares and to pay them fully up if so disposed. A dividend is now paid at a good rate according to the number of shares held and the amount paid up. In other words, we are departing from the mutual element and are trafficking in the shares. Worst of all, it is on record that members have joined and taken up a large number of shares though they are not "called upon to furnish" bond at all. For them it is a mere speculation. I cannot imagine that Mr. Raikes contemplated such a state of affairs.

My authority for this statement is contained in the speech of Mr. E. Winter, who presided at the 1890 meeting. He said :—"If evidence were wanting of the stability of the Association and the confidence entertained as to its future, it would be found, I think, in the fact that a large number of established officers *who are not required to give bond* have taken up shares; not only so, but many of them have taken up the maximum number of forty shares a-piece, and some have paid up their shares in full." Notwithstanding this extraordinary statement, the latest issued balance-sheet begins thus, "All Officers of the Post Office entitled to Pension, *and required by the Postmaster General, or by Postmasters, to give security for their fidelity, are eligible to become Shareholders.*"—The italics are mine.

Where, then, does the revenue come from, out of which these dividends are secured? The Committee, in the exercise of its powers, and aided by proxy voting, has been gradually converting

the Association into a sort of close corporation by raising the entrance fee until it now stands at 15/- per share, exactly three times what was originally mentioned to the Postmaster General. From 1/- it was raised to 2/-, then 5/-, 10/-, and ultimately 15/-, but there seems no limit until we approximate to outside rates. In 1891 the Chairman at the Annual Meeting proposed that, "The amount of the entrance fee may, at any time, be raised at the discretion of the Committee." On being seconded, it was carried without further debate, and the members have now no voice in that matter. From the same report I gather that, on another motion being put, 29 voted one way, and 16 the other, thus showing what small numbers appear to dominate the policy of an Association which had then upwards of 15,000 members.

Further, let me illustrate by two cases the hardship which is created by this arbitrary conversion of an otherwise beneficent association into a shareholders' dividend-paying club. It might and should have continued to take all comers at the lowest possible rates. Here is what happens at Edinburgh: For years those females who "manned" the branch offices were more or less without bonds. Now all are expected to give bond. If one is ill or on annual leave a substitute must be sent from the head office, but an outcry is made if the substitute, who may have only 12/- or 15/- per week, has no bond. To secure a bond will cost her 20/-, more than a week's wages, and all for the privilege of running a risk at a branch office, which she has not to face as a telegraphist at the General Post Office!

Take another case. The men in certain classes who very rarely ever handle cash, and that only in small amounts; *must* give bond, while others, nominally responsible for the same, give no bond whatever. In some offices or departments all are expected to give bond, while in the Secretary's Office, I understand, all are exempt, being "above suspicion" presumably.\* A year ago the Secretary of the Guarantee Association stated that the receipts for premiums in the year 1893 were £2,894, "whereas the total sum paid in this way to Guarantee Societies by Post Office employes is estimated at not less than £8,000 a year, whilst very many employes give security by means of private sureties, instead of paying premiums. There is, therefore, room for a large extension of business in this direction."

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\* The reason, no doubt, is simply this—that the Secretary's men do not handle cash.—EDITOR.

Now, as a shareholder in this concern—which, when it was started, was intended to benefit a considerable section of the staff by effecting a saving in the payments made—I protest against any alterations that shall prejudicially affect brother officers for all time to come. I personally am perfectly willing to forego any dividend if we can thereby secure to fellow officers the cheapest form of guarantee. It is a year to year guarantee, and if a large loss occurred we should certainly require a further call to be made on the amount of paid-up shares—each being liable for £5 per share—but that seems a contingency remote enough. I hold that the fact of the Postmaster General having the power to dismiss any defaulter is security enough against almost anything but petty losses, and even many of these are ultimately made good. No one can peruse Mr. Hart's article without being profoundly impressed by the fact that notwithstanding the tremendous value passing through the hands of the employés in the Post Office the total amount of loss by defalcation is absolutely insignificant. There was a further risk in the management of the Association—viz., that created by entering upon Fire Insurance and other business, but fortunately the Postmaster General insisted upon that branch being dropped.

To revert to the average loss. Let it be noted that while the defalcations amounted only to £479 5s. 8d., the cost of working averaged almost as much, viz., £468 18s. 2d. Stated differently, during the past five years,

Defaults amounted to £3,275 6s. 10d.;

Working Expenses, £3,300 5s. 8d.

Quite a little staff is required to look after the business, thus forming a competing Guarantee Association not wholly worked by ourselves.

We began by dealing only with those entitled to pensions, but latterly we have taken all sorts of Post Office employés, and we have an elaborate statement of annual charges for such as cannot or will not become shareholders, discriminating rates for certain classes up to as much as 15s. per cent. per annum. And this all or chiefly for profit to the original shareholder! Undoubtedly the procedure in regard to Departmental Bonds has been vastly simplified, and the Postmaster General, as well as his employés, has, in various ways, reaped an advantage by the establishment of the Association.

I should like to make a suggestion in closing. Is there any reason why the Postmaster General should not run his own Guarantee Association, just as large Railway Companies or Shipping firms effect their own Insurance? If the average loss is as

insignificant as it has been shown to be, one would almost be inclined to think that the Postmaster General could well afford to dispense altogether with guarantees and merely dismiss offenders and prosecute for the amount embezzled, thus at one fell swoop abolishing an infinite amount of labour. But I have not the hardihood to propose such a scheme. On the other hand, I urge that each person on appointment, aye, even on employment within the ranks of the service, should compulsorily pay down a certain fixed sum, or, alternatively, so much per cent. of his or her first year's salary (say  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , or 1 per cent. as might, by calculation, be found to suffice) for the establishment and maintenance, by each year's new entrants, of a fund to be held permanently by the Postmaster General, out of which he would recoup himself, when necessary, for all otherwise irrecoverable losses through the default of any of his employés. I mean, that only one payment be made by each entrant, and that there be no further charge. With the experience possessed, the small amount that would cover the average annual loss could be easily ascertained, and I am satisfied it would be an infinitesimal sum. Thus all men would be guaranteed without further trouble.

It cannot be seriously maintained that the mere paying of an annual premium to an outside Company, or the formal or compulsory entry into a semi-official Guarantee Association, will make a dishonest man honest. It is the fear of the consequences, in some few cases, and the native honesty, in the main, that conduces to the commendable integrity of the force as a whole.

This scheme obviously can apply only to those persons whom the Postmaster General appoints and dismisses in person, and would not extend to those employed as Assistants, and over whom the Postmaster General has little or no control.

If you have space in your columns the subject might be further debated.

JOHN NEWLANDS.

Telegraph Department,  
Edinburgh.

## *The Telegraph Banquet.*



UNDER the presidency of Mr. Arnold Morley, M.P., Postmaster-General, a dinner was given in the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, on the 28th January, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the transfer of the telegraphic system of the United Kingdom to the State. The stairways and corridors leading to the reception room were lined by drilled boys of the Telegraph Messenger Service, armed with carbines, and accompanied by their drum and fife band. The company present included Ministers of the Crown, Members of Parliament, men of science, and representative heads of submarine and international telegraph companies, railway companies, and of the Royal Mail steamship lines. Altogether, some 200 sat down to dinner, and among the guests present were the Earl of Kimberley, the Marquis of Ripon, Sir F. Mowatt, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Samuel, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, the Attorney-General, the Earl of Jersey, Sir John Pender, M.P., the Solicitor-General, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Sheriff Hand, Sir Donald Currie, M.P., Sir Francis Evans, M.P., Sir Henry Oakley, Mr. C. W. Earle, Mr. S. R. French (Postmaster-General Cape Colony), Mr. T. Ismay, Sir Myles Fenton, Sir Stuart Knill, Major-General Webber, Sir T. Sutherland, M.P., Sir John Robinson, Sir R. H. Wyatt, Mr. G. H. Murray, Mr. W. Andrews, Mr. Alex. Siemens, Professor Hughes, and Colonel Du Plat Taylor.

Among those who had accepted invitations, but were unavoidably prevented from being present, were Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Lord Welby, Lord Brassey, Mr. H. Gladstone, and the Lord Mayor.

[We reprint, for the benefit of our readers, the souvenir, a copy of which was handed to each guest.]

The Chairman, in rising to propose "The Health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," said that nearly two-and-a-half centuries had passed since Parliament constituted the Post Office as one of the great departments of the State on the ground, as set forth in the statute, that it would be the means of discovering and

preventing many dangerous and wicked designs against the peace and welfare of the commonwealth. Since then steady development and he might say daily improvement in the department of the Post Office had taken place, and he ventured to think that no one would gainsay his statement when he asserted that the reign of the Queen had been more prolific than any other period in the history of this country in those scientific discoveries and inventions which had tended so much to the rapid progress of civilisation, and into which the Postal and Telegraph Service entered so largely. In February, 1836, Mr. Greville, then in Paris, wrote that the King's speech had been received there at nine o'clock in the morning, within twenty-nine hours of its delivery in London, a degree of rapidity which to him was almost incredible. When, however, it was remembered that the news of the Great Fire of London took five days to reach the Duke of Buckingham at his country house in Bognor, within sixty miles of London, they ought not to be surprised at Mr. Greville's incredulity. Again, Mr. Greville wrote in February, 1837, and in the same year the first telegraph was constructed for the London and North-Western Railway Company between Euston and Camden Town by Cook and Wheatstone. In 1851 Great Britain and the Continent of Europe were first connected by telegraph, and in 1865 cables were first laid which connected this country with India in the east and with the continent of America in the west. In 1870 the telegraphs were taken over by the State, the event which was the immediate cause of their assembling that evening. The reign of the Queen had, therefore, witnessed the rapid progress and development of the telegraphic system of the country.

There were special features which made the Victorian era remarkable in the history of post office and telegraphic development. It was not necessary any longer to doubt the successful adaptation to the needs of the time of the development of scientific discoveries, and of the inventions which had been made. There was one new departure that had taken place in the period they were considering, the beneficent effects of which were in no sense confined to the mere postal and telegraphic needs of the community, but which, if looked at from the point of view of the politician and statesman, appeared to him to be of far greater importance than those departmental changes to which he had referred. He alluded to the postal and telegraphic congresses which had taken place periodically in different capitals of the world, and he was glad to say that since the recent adhesion of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal every

civilized country of the world was represented in those congresses at which all the differences which affected the two great services in relation to foreign Powers were fairly considered and were settled. It might be merely the dream of the enthusiast that the time would come when the war drum throbbed no longer and when the battle flag would be always furled in the Parliament of man and the federation of the world ; but at all events the Post Office during the reign of the Queen had been successful to some extent in realising the dream of inaugurating a system under which we had largely done away with the antiquated and rusty methods of diplomacy with which his noble friend on his right (Lord Kimberley) still had to deal in the negotiations which he had been carrying on. And in doing this they had done something towards the settlement of international questions by other methods than by an appeal to force and to the arbitrament of the sword. He proposed that they should drink the health of the Queen.

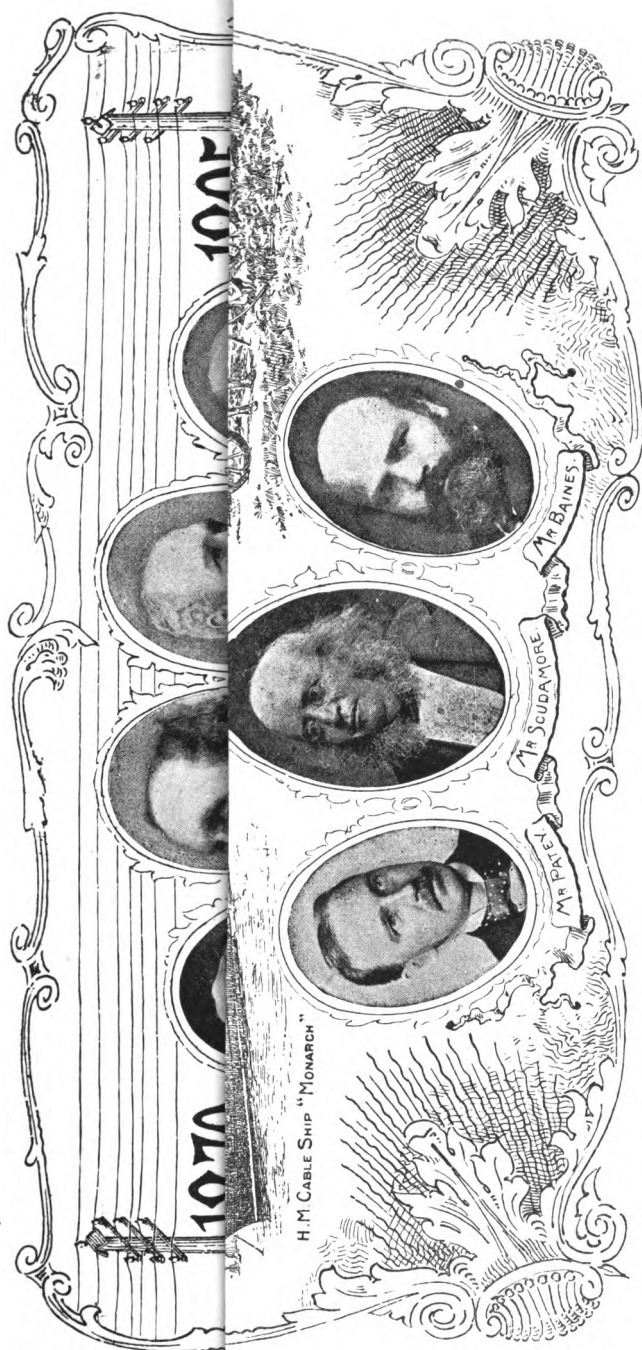
The Chairman next gave the toast of "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family."

The Marquis of Ripon proposed "The Military and Civil Services of the Crown."

General Webber replied for the Army, and Sir Francis Mowatt for the Civil Service.

Mr. Spencer Walpole proposed the toast of "The Houses of Parliament." He felt some difficulty. If he drank to the health of either House, he would appear ironical, for the air of Pall Mall was teeming with reports of a dissolution impending over one and a resolution suspended over the other. He could imagine that next week both Houses might adopt as an unopposed address the words of the old Roman Gladiators—"Ave Cæsar, morituri te salutant." Instead of expressing any opinion of his own about the House of Lords, he would content himself with the words which Goldsmith 130 years ago inserted in *The Citizen of the World*, "Abuse the great as much as we do, there are very many honest fellows among them, and we must not quarrel with one half because the other half want weeding." He was on safer ground in dealing with the House of Commons. They were all proud of it. It had grown with the nation's growth, and increased with the nation's strength. More than 600 years ago it became truly representative of the nation by enrolling among its members the burgesses of towns ; and it was interesting at the present moment to recollect that the first important event in the history of the enlarged House of Commons was





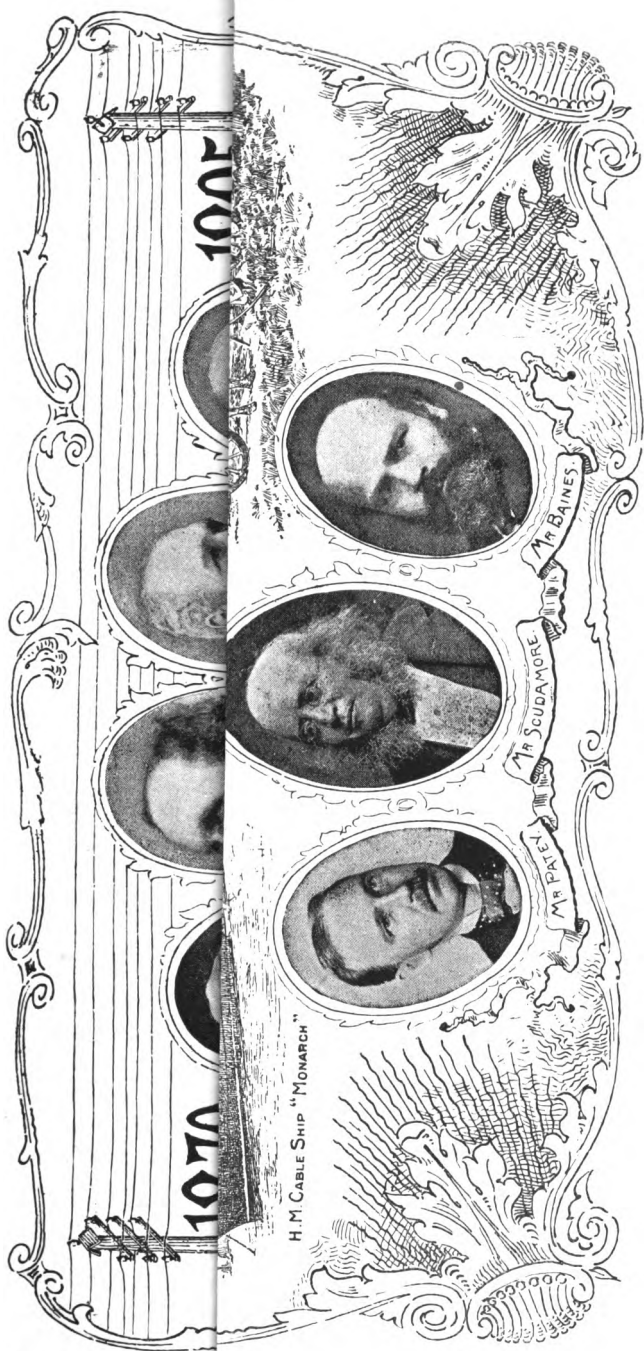
civilized country of the world was represented in those congresses at which all the differences which affected the two great services in relation to foreign Powers were fairly considered and were settled. It might be merely the dream of the enthusiast that the time would come when the war drum throbbed no longer and when the battle flag would be always furled in the Parliament of man and the federation of the world ; but at all events the Post Office during the reign of the Queen had been successful to some extent in realising the dream of inaugurating a system under which we had largely done away with the antiquated and rusty methods of diplomacy with which his noble friend on his right (Lord Kimberley) still had to deal in the negotiations which he had been carrying on. And in doing this they had done something towards the settlement of international questions by other methods than by an appeal to force and to the arbitrament of the sword. He proposed that they should drink the health of the Queen.

The Chairman next gave the toast of "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family."

The Marquis of Ripon proposed "The Military and Civil Services of the Crown."

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the Battle of Evesham in the thirteenth century, but it was quite certain that the last event in its history would not be the Battle of Evesham in the nineteenth century. From the earlier struggle one might learn that whatever was the fate of particular leaders the cause of popular Government in this country would endure, and the House of Commons, sprung from the people, representing the people, and strong in the respect of the people, would continue to give effect to their wishes, and to set the bounds of freedom wider yet.

The Earl of Kimberley responded for the House of Lords. It had been said that as Foreign Secretary he must be deeply interested in the great extension of telegraphic communication. His interest was only too deep, for he was the centre of a positive storm of telegrams poured on him every instant. The system enabled the Government to prevent misunderstanding which might grow into serious difficulties. On the other hand, it produced an extreme of centralization, which tended to weaken the responsibility of our agents throughout the world. On general lines it was essential that there should be central direction; but, on the other hand, it was important that our agents abroad should be capable of initiative and of judging for themselves. Our gain from the telegraph was undoubtedly great, but when he thought how it was practically narrowing the world he occasionally doubted whether the gain was as enormous as we sometimes supposed.

Mr. Bryce spoke for the House of Commons, whose health, as Mr. Spencer Walpole would be glad to know, was at present excellent. The House did well to be liberal towards the Post Office, and especially towards the Telegraph Department, which by spreading reports of the debates throughout the land had made the House again what in legal definition it had always been—the nation assembled in Parliament.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., was cordially greeted on rising to propose "The Telegraph Service." This honour he owed, in his opinion, to the fact that he was one of the nine Postmasters-General of the last twenty-five years. That was only two years and a half for each of them. *Absit omen* for the present Government. His own memory went back almost to the inception of the telegraph system. He remembered that when he was a boy Professor Wheatstone came to his father's house and explained his new invention to a number of scientific men, and then, turning to him, said, "You, at least, may live to see the day when my system may envelop the whole world."

But during the first thirty years telegraphs made but little progress. They were in the hands of joint stock companies, and were eminently unsatisfactory. The charges were excessive, and varied according to the distance. There were vexatious and often ruinous delays. The rural districts were almost wholly neglected, and the Press was very badly served. It was to the credit of the Post Office that one of its officers first made the definite proposal that the State should take charge of the telegraphs. He alluded to Mr. Baines, who only last year retired after forty years' service. It was perhaps hardly necessary in this company to say that the success of the Transfer Bill in the House of Commons was due in a splendid degree to Mr. Scudamore. The State spent £11,000,000 on the transaction, but even at that price it was a good one. For many years it was considered necessary that the interest on this sum should be provided for. It was not till Professor Fawcett in 1883 persuaded the Chancellor of the Exchequer that a reduction should be made that Parliament decided in that direction. It fell to his lot, as Mr. Fawcett's successor, to devise a scheme for the purpose of reducing the minimum charge for telegrams to sixpence, a change in connection with which he acted chiefly on the advice of the late Mr. Patey. Since the telegraphs were taken over by the State the number of telegrams had increased from six millions to seventy millions. The average charge had been reduced from 2s. 2d. to 7½d. Instead of about 3,000 stations there were now about 10,000, and the average time occupied by the transmission of a message had been reduced from two or three hours to ten or fifteen minutes. It was unfortunate that the telegraph service did not more than meet its expenses, and nothing remained for interest on the £11,000,000 with which the telegraphs had been bought. He contended, however, that the telegraph and the letter services must be looked at as a whole. It was impossible to determine what was the real cost of either; and as the Post Office surplus was about £2,750,000 it ought abundantly to satisfy the most grasping Chancellor of the Exchequer. For celerity, for accuracy, for universality, our telegraph service was not equalled by any other in the world, and in officials like Mr. Lamb and Mr. Preece there was ample guarantee that the high level would be maintained.

Mr. J. C. Lamb, the Vice-Chairman, responded, observing that in all ranks of the Department there were men who were devoted to the service, and were determined to serve the public to the best of their ability. Some might think that the Telegraph Department ought to be

mourning rather than dining, because they were not paying their way. But there were other items than those which could be expressed in figures ; and, if they could not square their accounts by any process known to arithmetic, they claimed that in facilities to all classes, in the means for promoting commerce, and in the strengthening of a free Press throughout the country, they were making entries which went far to counterbalance the deficits which troubled their critics. They were accused of being old-fashioned and behind other countries, but he asserted that there was no form of apparatus of proved utility that had not been adopted in this country. It was not the fault of the Department if English inventors turned to other channels. The American inventor found a perfect readiness in the Department to accept his inventions ; he had presented them with the duplex, the quadruplex, and the multiplex machine, the last-named apparatus taking six messages over one wire, and while that extraordinary and beautiful product of the human mind was adopted here in 1886, it had not been adopted to this day in the country of its nativity. Not only were the scientific staff of the Department the earliest to adopt new inventions, but they had wrought such improvements in the older apparatus as to amount to practical inventions. It had been by the hands and brains of the Department that the Wheatstone automatic apparatus had been improved from the condition of sending 70 words a minute to one of sending 600, and he believed it had been found at Chicago that the quadruplex in use in this country was quite a different thing from that invented by Edison in America, and still in use there. In the general working of the Department were they behind the age, when in a great neighbouring country with thirty-eight million inhabitants there were only forty-seven million telegraphic communications in the year ; when in another great neighbouring country, with fifty million inhabitants, there were only thirty-three million telegraphic communications in the year, and when in our own country, with thirty-eight million inhabitants, there were seventy-one million telegrams in the year ? This showed that the Department was in the front rank of efficiency and popularity. They hoped to take in the future an increasing part in the development of that system of international telegraphy which was binding the nations together, and they looked to a still closer binding together through the telephone. Since the Post Office had established telephonic communication with Paris this country had been telephonically joined to Ireland, and since then, again, a telephone line had been completed from Plymouth and the ports in

South Wales to Newcastle and the ports in that neighbourhood, and in a few weeks there would be completed a line from London through Belfast to Dublin, and conversation would be carried on over those lines as they could now talk across the table. If they looked to the telegraph for the binding together of the nations of the earth, they might look to the telephone for the welding together of the subjects of the Queen in the United Kingdom.

The Earl of Jersey proposed "The Trade Communications of the Empire," and Sir J. Pender and Sir T. Sutherland responded.

Mr. Algernon Turnor proposed "Our Guests," and the Attorney-General, Sir R. T. Reid, briefly responded.

Sir F. Lockwood, Solicitor-General, in proposing the health of the Chairman, suggested that the Post Office might perhaps increase its popularity by tearing up the bonds of those who had given guarantees for the establishment of telegraph stations. The fact that he was himself a guarantor would not prevent him from rejoicing on such an occasion.

The Chairman, in reply, said that whether his connection with the Post Office were long or short, he did not expect ever to be in a position where he should be associated with colleagues more able, more zealous, and more thoroughly efficient than his colleagues in the Post Office Department.

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## *The Exodus.*

*Hæc autem omnia operatur unus atque idem spiritus.*

UP, and take the old Penates, bear them foremost as ye go;  
Up! and pass along the gangway to another G.P.O.

Note ye how your own St. Martin, waiting to be newly shrined,  
Looks from Teraph back to Teraph, lest a God be left behind.

Place for those whose place is highest—borne aloft they lead the way,  
Those who burst the bars of limbo, set you where ye stand to day.

See! they come bedecked with laurel, open wide the eager door,  
Witherings, Dockwra, Allen, Palmer, Rowland Hill, and Scudamore.

First the Gods, and then the heroes; who shall name the mighty  
throng?

Pass along, and fill the temple, Gods and heroes pass along!

Then the relics that we cherish, saved from half-forgotten time,  
Mocked to-day, adored to-morrow, now absurd, and now sublime.

Relics of the courtlier graces, humour's quaint and kindly gleam,  
Threatened by the demon Bustle, always whirring "all by steam."

Relics of the pride of service, pride that neither bounced nor sobbed,  
Sold not votes, nor howled on platforms, jobbing boldly when it  
jobbed.

Relics of the old-world order of a slow and careful pen,  
When th' official tape-bound bundle matched the use-bound minds  
of men.

Pass along, ye relic bearers, set them on their destined shelves;  
Clear the way, for we are coming—place unto our noble selves!

Surely self-contempt is easy, while we note the stately dead,  
Yet, perhaps, not all unworthy, we may dare to go ahead.

Ours is not the courtly era, worry cannot wear the smile,  
Bustle is the law of service, business has no time for style.  
Faster raves a blatant public, faster goes the whirl of things,  
Faster, wider, all-o'ershadowing, beat the captive lightning's wings.  
True it is that whoso covets seeks *quocunque modo rem*.  
Agitation, if successful, asks in wonder, "Why condemn?"  
Yet it may be there is honour, and a new official pride,  
In the ceaseless roar of business, in the flowing of its tide.  
And it may be that hereafter, when another flitting comes,  
We shall share the place of honour, next behind the muffled drums.

H. S. C.



WAITING FOR THE MAILS

(After a drawing by *Cynicus*\*).

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\* By kind permission of the *Cynicus* Company, 59, Drury Lane.

## *An English Siberia.*

**M**ANY of the readers of this magazine are doubtless well acquainted with the East Coast railway route to Scotland by way of Newcastle-on-Tyne and Berwick. The journey through Northumberland is interesting in the charming glimpses it gives of the North Sea, and the villages on the coast; but the "hinter land," as seen from the railway is, on the whole, somewhat flat and monotonous. Only here and there, where the rail crosses deep and well-wooded ravines (as, for instance, near Morpeth, Warkworth and Lesbury) is there any indication of the varied natural beauties in which the county, north of the coal region, abounds; while of the battlefields, castles, ruined abbeys, peel towers and other historic lore scattered with such rich profusion on every hand scarcely a trace is visible from the iron road. The reason of this is that the railway for the greater part of its route north of Newcastle keeps at the same high level as that of Stephenson's noble bridge by which it crosses the Tyne, *i.e.*, 100 feet or more above the valleys of the Tyne, Coquet, Aln and other streams it bridges on its way to Berwick. The beauty of Northumberland is thus hidden below the general surface of the table-land on which the railway runs. This is as it should be, for it were "casting pearls before swine" to expose the beauties we in the north cherish so warmly to the hurried gaze of "animated parcels" rushing through the county at 50 miles an hour. It will be readily perceived that on such a table-land, and in the narrow winding valleys intersecting it in all directions, heavy snowstorms must tell with terrific force, the rifts forming receptacles admirably adapted for collecting and retaining the snow. Indeed, one can well imagine the snow fiend taking a malicious delight in wreaking his vengeance on such a country just to see whether he can succeed in blocking up the cañons and thus produce that miracle in nature, a dead level.

With such an environment the county has, of course, its gruesome records of severe storms, and the roll of victims contains the name of one, at least, who lost his life in the service of the Department. A mail cart runs daily 15 miles across the moors between Morpeth and Rothbury. The journey from Rothbury is always in the dark in winter, for the cart does not leave that place until 6.0 p.m. One night (early in 1891 if my memory serves me) during a heavy snow-storm the cart did not reach Morpeth at the usual hour, 8.40 p.m., and fears for the driver's safety were but too well grounded by the discovery of his dead body the next day in the snow on Long Horsley Moor, one of the most desolate and exposed parts of the county. The heavy snowstorms of 1888 also left their mark; but the scene I am about to describe occurred in March, 1886, after a snowstorm to which our ubiquitous and never-failing friend "the oldest inhabitant" could recall no parallel for 50 years. Trains were snowed up for days in Northumberland and North Durham. A Scotch Express was hopelessly imbedded at Plessay, between Newcastle and Morpeth, and the passengers were fain to plunder the luggage and fish vans in search of food. Starvation threatened whole valleys, for an average depth of 10 or 12 feet of snow covered the country and communication with many places could not be opened up for weeks. It is a fact within my own knowledge, and one which gives a vivid idea of the severity of the storm, that some of the snow that fell early in March was easily visible on the hillsides in the following July.

When railway communication was to some extent restored it became my painful duty to test a rural post over some of the snow-bound country, and my heart sank within me when the official instruction came along to set off by an early train to Chathill. "Of what use," I argued to myself, "was it to test a post under such abnormal conditions as 10 or 12 feet of snow covering the 'walk'?" And then, how could one *walk* it at all? But I thought of the lines:

"Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do or die,"

and dying it looked like for the postman and myself. However, with that devotion to duty characteristic of the Service (!) I set off from Berwick by the 6.30 a.m. train in one of the hardest frosts that severest of winters had brought. On the way I vainly tried to decide which was the stronger feeling in my mind—whether intense depression at the discovery that a surveyor's clerk's work includes such hardships as post-testing under arctic conditions, or keen curiosity to see how the postman and myself were going to

"negotiate" the snowdrifts for 8 long miles. At Chathill the rural postmen were assembled in moody silence, significant (my fears told me) of the coming struggle with the snow. At the outset my particular postman and I trudged along with fair success, for near the railway stations and villages the roads had been cleared of most of the snow. My fears, it seemed, had exaggerated the difficulties, and my spirits rose at the prospect of a not too arduous tramp. A glance at the postman, however, showed no response in his mind to this optimism, for his face bore the same set stolid look as at starting (*he* knew what was in store for us). The first half-mile over saw us landed on an apparently limitless plateau of snow, with neither road nor hedge to be seen, but here and there over the glittering expanse trees, and the rude outlines of houses built apparently of snow, were the only visible evidence that we were not in the arctic regions. How we were ever going to "pedipulate" that snow was now a greater mystery than ever, and my mental temperature dropped with a run to the level of the physical. I had so far carried in my hand the ordnance map of the neighbourhood, with the laudable idea of checking the postman's route; but the snow-fiend had most rudely ignored our great Department by "delivering" to the villages round 1,000 tons of his commodity (more or less) for every tiny letter we could produce. It was not a square fight, and I acknowledged defeat by promptly pocketing the map, not forgetting to glance at my companion to note the effect on him of the surrender of that checking instrument. Indeed, it was probable that the postman—so far from being checked himself—would have to check me from making too short a cut to the hard road which I suspected was somewhere underneath us.

Before tackling the snow, however, I paused on our "coign of vantage" to survey the striking scene that lay before us. Not a vestige of life was to be seen! The disused coal pits that disfigure many parts of central Northumberland, the wretched hovels the miners used to occupy, the roads, the railway, every evidence of man's too successful attempt to desecrate nature, all were mercifully hidden under the pure canopy of snow. Far as the eye could reach—and in hilly Northumberland, within the range of the Cheviots (as we then were) the prospect is a wide one—swelled wave on wave of snow, glittering in the early sunlight with the dust of a myriad diamonds; rising, on the west, in a succession of irregular terraces higher, higher yet, till in the far distance the smooth crest of the Cheviot himself stood out white and clear against the leaden sky

beyond. Under such a spell I had quite forgotten my silent companion, but the desire to share the beauty of so wonderful a scene with some fellow mortal caused me to turn half round to see if one were within range. "Look," I cried, "at that glorious prospect! is it not marvellous?" The reply was a half uttered grunt. I turned sharply—heavens! it was the postman, patiently waiting with down-cast eyes till my rapture was past. Thus brought down, as by a curb-rein, to things mundane, we resumed our trudge. The mystery of "negotiating" the ten or twelve feet of snow was explaining itself at every step, for we simply walked on the surface! This was rendered practicable by the heavy frosts of the preceding two or three nights, which had crusted the surface of the snow firmly enough to bear a man's weight provided that he trod lightly. One cannot, however, for long keep one's mind intent on so automatic an action as walking, and ever and anon as some change in the view tempted one's eyes upwards the too heavy tread brought punishment on the instant by a partial immersion in the snow. So long as the snow maintained a fairly even level, progress, though slow, was made with little mishap, but where, as frequently happened, the snow had drifted or had been cut, especially near the houses we called at, the sudden descent to "terra firma" was not effected without frequent immersions, from which we extricated each other as brother officials should.

Further on a remarkable effect of the snow storm lay before us. Here and there, in patches of twenty or thirty yards, the tornado (for such it must have been at those spots) had swept the road absolutely bare and clean, the snow thus prevented from settling having been swirled aloft into huge caved drifts obliquely crossing the road, frequently to the height of twenty feet, with their topmost ridges carried to a razor edge. Looking down on a succession of such drifts stretching away for a mile or more, the effect was startling. It was the sea, lashed and furrowed by the angry tempest into foam-crested billows, suddenly frozen as they raged and fixed in the very act! The trough of each wave was there too, in all its vividness, for the lately risen sun caught the sharp crest of each billow and threw a deep shadow on the space between. A veritable triumph in black and white by the master artist Nature! Yet again the ever-varying beauty had another surprise in store for us. This time the new charm was the result of man's handiwork. At various points on the great north roads men had been at work for days past cutting the snow so that communication (by light vehicles at least) might be restored. At one part of our tramp we came upon such a cutting


stretching for a good mile in a straight line before us. As viewed from high ground the cutting showed a narrow way some five feet wide, flanked on either side by a perpendicular wall of snow from four to eight feet high, each wall being heightened another two or three feet by the cubes of snow thrown out on either side. The sun completed the beauty of the picture, for it caught the edges of the frost-nipped cubes, making each a block of crystal, the whole forming a fitting entrance to some grotto in fairyland. Once again I felt that in such circumstances as these post-testing was a "blessing in disguise."

The delight I had experienced on this ever-memorable walk was to some extent marred by the discovery at South Charlton (the end of our eight miles tramp) that the trap I had ordered to meet me had not arrived, evidently stopped by the snow, and nothing remained but a further walk of 7 miles into Alnwick. There I arrived "dog-tired," but happy that I had had so glorious an experience of "An English Siberia."

J. J. D.

## *The Benevolent Society.*

"THE OTHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION."—BY W. G. MANTELL.  
(Second Paper).

HE January issue of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* contains an article, under the title of "The Question Itself," in which Mr. Belcher continues the discussion raised by the Reserve Fund proposal in connection with the Post Office Benevolent Society. With the Editor's permission, I desire to be allowed to reply to one or two observations made therein, which have a bearing upon my October article.

Mr. Belcher commences with the philosophical dictum that he will endeavour to confine himself to the "cold atmosphere of fact which Mr. Mantell so strangely thinks the Reservists carefully shun"; but why does he in the very next sentence confirm the truth of my contention, by remarking that, "he (Mr. Mantell) contemplates with a light heart a heavy call in one week in respect of, say, 40 or 50 deaths, the result of some dire disaster"? If this assertion be founded upon fact, Mr. Belcher will, perhaps, kindly point to the sentence in my previous article which bears the above construction. If he refers to my pressing home the argument of benevolence, I need only say that it would have been strange indeed, had I, in this connection, gone to the opposite extreme and attempted to prove the existence of a complete want of sympathy with the sufferings of those from whom the breadwinner had been so suddenly and so awfully snatched away.

That local secretaries do experience a difficulty in collecting levies from a very small number of members is unfortunately true; this remark is also true of all Societies in existence, for in every institution there are always a few members who delay payment until the time limit is reached, although I do not think the



percentage of such members is any higher in our own than other Societies. But that "a number of members decline to respond to the call and sever their connection with the Society" is quite a different matter, and one which, in my opinion, is not borne out by the figures contained in the Balance Sheets. In these Annual Statements I find that during the fourteen years ended March 31st, 1890, we lost 2,255 members, a yearly average of 161. But during the past four years we lost 1,001, or an average of 250 per annum. I give the reason for this increase further down. The average number of members, per annum, during the same period, was 16,242, there was therefore an average annual loss of 1.53 per cent. Yet, in the face of these startlingly small figures, Mr. Belcher says, "it is an everyday experience with local secretaries that when a call is made in respect of only five or six deaths, a number of members . . . sever their connection with the Society." I freely admit that even this small loss is regrettable, but I should be very much surprised if changes in Insurance Offices, from the same or similar causes, do not show a higher percentage of loss.

Now, since Mr. Belcher is especially solicitous on behalf of the First Class Members, I have drawn up the following tabulated statement of these losses, together with the number of members in each class, and the percentage for each, for the last four years ended March 31st.

Year.	FIRST CLASS.			SECOND CLASS.		
	Resigned or ceased Membership.	Number of Members.	Per- centage.	Resigned or ceased Membership.	Number of Members.	Per- centage.
1891	49	5,356	0.92	210	10,163	2.08
1892	81	5,194	1.55	214	10,634	2.02
1893	50	5,151	0.98	196	11,385	1.73
1894	28	5,134	0.55	173	11,952	1.45
Totals	208	20,835		793	44,134	
Average 4 years	52	5,209	1.00	198	11,033	1.82

A glance at these figures will show that the loss in both classes has decreased in three years from 295 to 201 ; that the average loss in the First Class is one per cent. for the four years, and that the loss in the Second Class is nearly double that of the First. Yet no one has ventured to assert that the Second Class is in danger. These figures are so small that it is hardly worth while bringing them forward, but it is necessary to prove that when the generalizations of the Reservists are brought to the test of hard and solid facts their weakness can easily be demonstrated. Always remember that this is a kind of loss which no reserve fund will prevent, for it arises principally from altered circumstances due to heavier outgoings in other directions, and, in some few instances, to a decline of generous instincts.

Mr. Belcher next produces "another fact," viz.: "that the average age of the surviving members is steadily increasing year by year, and the logical inference is that the number of deaths must increase also. This increase may be slight during the next ten years, but it must necessarily become very marked (I refer more especially to the First Class) when the average age of the members is over 50." In my previous Article I showed that in 1885 the death rate per thousand members was 8.36, and that ten years later it had only risen to 9.01, or an increase of 0.65, concurrently with an increased membership of seventy per cent. If, judging from the past, the next ten years show a similar result, the death rate then will be only 9.66, or less than one per cent. increase. Again, the average age of First Class Members in 1884 was 37 years, and in the Second Class 28 years. Six years later, in 1890, the average age of the First Class had increased to 38, while the Second Class remained stationary at 28, *i.e.*, one year only had been added to the First Class. But what happened in 1890-91? The Reserve Fund question was raised simultaneously with the formation of the Civil Service Insurance Society. I will not say the intention was to injure the "Northampton," but the fact remains that no opportunity of pressing the supposed advantages of the C. S. I. S. to the detriment of our own Benevolent Society was lost, with the result that, in four years, the average ages rose to 41 and 31 respectively, the two classes maintaining a similar increase. This increase, most undoubtedly, would have been smaller if the Reservists had not been doing their level best to ruin the Society (unwittingly, I grant). The result of their action has been to check that regular advance in membership to which we had become accustomed, and to force the

average annual loss up from 161 to 250. During the seven years, 1884-90, when the Society was allowed to remain in peace, the average age was practically stationary, and, as a fair inference, if the members are let alone in the future, the lost ground may be more than recovered. There is another important fact which Mr. Belcher seems to have overlooked, viz.: that the great majority of the members who have died in benefit had not reached the age of 40. Of the 1,657 members who have died in benefit since 1877 (eighteen years), 997 had not exceeded the age of 40 years, and only 660 had passed that period of life.

In support of my contention that ours is a Benevolent Society I instanced two facts, and these I separated into two distinct statements by inserting the question—"Is it a misnomer to call this action benevolent"? In the first case I referred incidentally to the action of the Annual Conference in relieving members in distress from the payment of levies, and in the second case, I referred to those members whose levies were paid for them by the local members. Mr. Belcher, with a freedom for which I certainly did not give him credit, takes a sentence from the second case and inserts it in the first case, and then turns round with a tremendous flourish and delivers what he considers to be an unanswerable argument. I never said the members of the Benevolent Society paid the levies of those members who were relieved from payment by the Annual Conference. I am perfectly aware that these levies are not paid at all (otherwise, where would be the exemption?) but, as regards the loss falling upon the nominees, that loss amounts to the magnificent sum of fivepence in the case of a First Class Member and one penny in that of a Second Class Member. Does any Insurance Office, however, do even this much? In the second case, I referred to other indigent members whose levies are paid by the local members of the district to which they belong as distinct from the general body. That Mr. Belcher did not overlook the localizing word is evident, for he says, "Mr. Mantell, having been led into making the statement that 'the local members of our Societies do pay these levies,' asks, 'is it a misnomer to call this action benevolent?'" Mr. Belcher answers this question in the negative, and then refers me to the Central Secretary who would show me that the statement "belongs, unfortunately, to the high region of impressions of which he (Mr. Mantell) thinks the Reservists only are enamoured." It is indeed unfortunate, but the misfortune is Mr. Belcher's own seeking. For his argument is only

unanswerable if he can prove that several members of the Central Telegraph Office, No. 1 Branch, do NOT have their levies paid for them by the local members of that branch. I shall be very much obliged to him if he can prove this, as I have for years past contributed towards such a fund, and, if these levies have not been paid, the money so subscribed has been misapplied. I believe Mr. Belcher has been Central Secretary of our Society, and I would ask him how he supposes a fact, of which he, when acting in that capacity, was apparently ignorant, could be shown to be a myth by the present Central Secretary, since it is no part of his duty to ascertain by whom the levies are paid so long as he receives the proper sum. The words "local members" cannot by any stretch of ingenuity be made to mean and include the whole body of members as represented at the Annual Conference. There is no occasion for me to trouble the Central Secretary upon a matter which is within my own knowledge, and I am sorry Mr. Belcher was not equally cognizant of it. A simple enquiry of the local Secretary, or myself, would have enlightened him.

But notwithstanding my proof that this is a Benevolent Society, the Reservists persist in trying to find a similarity between an institution which makes a levy upon the death of a member and hands the proceeds of that particular levy to the nominees of that member, and an Insurance office which guarantees to pay a stipulated sum upon satisfactory evidence of death. I accept Mr. Belcher's statement that an insurance for £150 in the Scottish Provident Institution would cost £4 5s. per annum, and that practically, we stand insured for that amount at £1 14s. But what does this prove? Does it prove ours to be an Insurance Society? Certainly not. Is it not a further proof that ours is *not* an Insurance Society; that it is *not* intended to make a profit for distribution among shareholders; and that in order to furnish these dividends other insurers have to pay a higher premium than is necessary? Even on Mr. Belcher's own showing our levies will have to increase by 150 per cent. before we shall pay the same sum per annum as the policyholders of the Scottish Institution! And what death rate does 150 per cent. increase on the present levies mean? Does not this argument strike one as being remarkable only for its weakness? I have not seen a single argument in favour of the Reserve Fund which will bear investigation, and there is only one real solid ground upon which such argument can be based, that is, by transforming the Society into an Insurance Society. If you

do that, you must, of course, guarantee to pay the amount agreed upon, and the premium will have to be increased.

I think I have now answered the principal suggestions which have been advanced in favour of the formation of a Reserve Fund, and have adduced arguments obtained from the Annual Reports against which only vague generalizations can be urged. I am sorry to be informed that it is the appreciation of these and other inferences which compel the Reservists to continue to press their point. Perhaps an unbiassed consideration of the statistics and arguments I have submitted may convert them, and, if not, I sincerely hope they will be persuaded to allow the Society a period of rest after the storm and stress of the past four years.

I am very pleased to find that my views coincide with those held by so highly placed a gentleman in the Post Office as "R. W. J." and that he has been able to produce evidence which shows that the late Sir A. Blackwood held a similar opinion. But "R. W. J." submits another powerful objection, "that there shall be no fund to be recklessly invested or made off with by defaulting officials." These are words which should solace our members when they hear that Mr. So and So, manager of——Society, has disappeared, and an examination of his accounts shows a deficit of——thousand pounds.

The Reserve Funds of Insurance Offices are not large enough to pay more than about 30 per cent. of the sums assured, and woe-betide that office which does not add yearly to its accumulations—accumulations due to the excess premiums of the policyholders.

The working expenses of these Societies range as high as 50 per cent. We, in ours, have collected and paid away during the past three years, £37,632, at a cost of about 5 per cent., including the Central Secretary's salary, and during these years the First Class Members have, on the average, paid only eightpence per week. Surely this sum is small enough to contribute towards benevolence when it is well known that the money is distributed, in the great majority of cases, to the widows and orphans of fellow members who have died under the age of 40 years—an age at which it is often impossible to make due provision for those left behind.

## *The Case for "Cash on Delivery."*

[We reprint the following article from the *Times* of the 24th November last, so that our readers may see what is to be said for the proposal. Those who possess our third volume will find on reference to page 232 that the Department proposed to introduce the system in 1889, and that Mr. Goschen, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, declined to agree on the grounds that the work of the Post Office was already so vast that it was not advisable to increase it, and moreover that the service if wanted could be provided by private enterprise. Recently when the subject was revived, the strong opposition manifested by many trade journals showed that a large proportion of tradesmen are by no means willing that the scheme should be introduced, and indeed it seems clear that it would tend to injure country shopkeepers by inducing their customers to send to London for their goods.

Elsewhere in the present number will be found Mr. Arnold Morley's remarks on the subject to the Associated Chambers of Commerce.]

**I**T is now a good many years since the British Post Office first undertook to carry and deliver small parcels, but it still refuses to attempt the complementary work of receiving and carrying back payment for the parcels. Yet the same work has long ago been undertaken and efficiently executed in countries where the post office organization is not to be compared with ours. Of the utility of this completion of the parcel post there can be no question. It would relieve business conducted through the Post Office from all the uncertainties of doubtful credit, and would thus immensely facilitate the internal trade of the country. Under the present system a London tradesman receiving a country order is often absolutely without the means of knowing whether he ought to execute it. If he declines the order he may lose a good customer, while, on the other hand, the value of the goods may be far too great to be lightly risked. That large London firms are constantly confronted with this difficulty is obvious from the efforts

which have been made to get over it. Sometimes a confidential letter is sent to the local postmaster—though that is contrary to regulations—or to the schoolmaster or even to the parson. There is an element of conspiracy in this procedure which no doubt has its charm to the active tradesman bored with the humdrum routine of ordinary business. But, unfortunately, the method is of very limited application and not infallible in its working. A more matter of fact device is the commercial "black book" prepared by a well-known firm in the City. Here are recorded the names of all person who have been through the Bankruptcy Court or have made composition with their creditors. This, too, is useful in its way, but the information it gives is necessarily negative. Mr. A., who has ordered a fur cape for his wife, may be a thorough-paced scoundrel, but if he has managed to keep clear of the Courts of his country, the "black book" knows nothing about him.

With the "cash on delivery" or "value payable" parcel post these difficulties disappear at once. The system, as it is worked in at least a score of countries, gives as complete confidence to buyer and seller as if money and commodity were exchanged across the counter. The best idea of the working of the system can be given by a concrete illustration. Let us take an Indian case, as it so happened that it was in India that the present writer first became familiar with the advantages of the system. A lady in a remote up-country station wants some new table cloths. From the trade circular of a Calcutta firm she makes her selection, sends her order, and waits. In a few days, more or less, according to her distance from Calcutta, the postman comes to the door carrying the parcel with the price of the table cloths and the price of the postage ticketed on it. As soon as this sum has been handed to him, the postman gives up the parcel, and then, as far as the purchaser is concerned, the transaction is at an end. She has made her purchase at cash prices and paid cash for it. As to the Calcutta tradesman, he receives in due course, either in cash or in a money order, the money paid by his customer to the rural postman *minus* a trifling commission. He has sold his goods at cash prices and received cash for them with only such delay as the distance of his customer necessarily involves. In a word, the "value payable" system has allowed the shop-keeper to extend his counter, as it were, over the whole of India. To the remotest village in that huge aggregation of countries he can safely send any article that is ordered, knowing that either the money or the article will certainly be returned to him.

A system exactly similar to this has been working in France for several years past under the name of "*Colis postaux contre remboursement*." In addition, the French Post Office will also collect money on valuable letters, such as drafts, invoices, &c. Both these systems are to be found in almost every country on the continent. Such a proof of superior enterprise in foreign Post Offices is not a little disappointing to the pride of a country whose Post Office was once the first in the world. But there is a practical as well as a sentimental side to the question. The "value payable" system on the continent is not only national, it is international, and is, therefore, obviously a most useful instrument in foreign trade. Take, for instance, the case of Egypt, where there is an excellent "value payable" system, both for parcels and for letters of value. By means of international agreement the advantages of this system are extended to exchanges between Egypt and all the following countries:—Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, including Iceland and the Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Holland, Italy and the Italian Colonies in Africa, Luxemburg, Norway, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Tripoli, and Tunis. The list includes all the principal commercial countries of Europe with the exception of Great Britain.

It excludes, not only Great Britain, but every British colony and possession. Indeed, as if to make the obstinacy of the British Post Office stand out in its full absurdity, the barrier set up by Great Britain is made to extend even to India, so that although India, as we have already seen, has an admirable "value payable" post of her own, she is not allowed to exchange "value payable" parcels with Egypt.

If the "cash on delivery" or "value payable" system succeeds under such different conditions as are to be found in India, Egypt, France, and Norway, it is ridiculous to suppose that it could not be worked with success in Great Britain. Of its certain utility in this country some illustrations have already been given. But it would not be only the tradesmen of big towns who would profit by this convenient method of collecting trade charges. Their customers in country districts would reap a corresponding advantage. Indeed, it is specially in the country that the new system would be appreciated, for there are still scores and hundreds of villages neglected by the railways, badly served by local tradesmen, and untouched by any organization except the post. The system would be equally serviceable to the small farmer or small manufacturer in the country who is trying to establish direct dealing with the consumer. English farmers



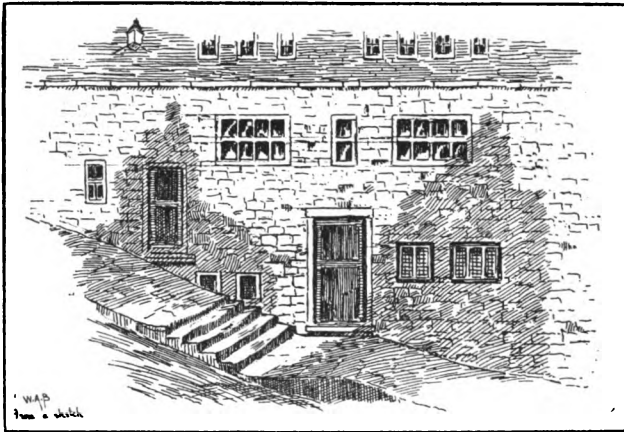
are always being lectured and told that they ought to produce this, that or the other. But when they have taken the advice they find to their cost that they have no means of selling what they have produced except through a dealer who intercepts all the profits. With the "cash on delivery" parcel post they would be able to build up an independent business of their own in which the dealer would play no part. The system, in fact, is one which in a greater or less degree would be useful to all classes in the community either as buyers or as sellers. Nor is there any reason why it should not be so worked as to add largely to the profits of the Post Office. That it has not yet been introduced into this country is hardly creditable to the enterprise of St. Martin's-le-Grand.



MAIL LATE.

## *The Bradford Post Office.*

**T**HE first building of note on leaving the Midland Station is the Post Office, situated at one end of Forster Square, and nestling, as it were, under the Parish Church. Looking at the Office makes one wonder about its history, and it is to be regretted, now that the town has attained an acknowledged commercial position, that the records on the subject are so meagre. Tradition has it that the first Bradford Post Office existed in the time of Queen Anne, behind the Manor Hall, which was re-erected by a Mr. William Rawson, in 1705. This gentleman



OLD POST OFFICE AT BRADFORD.

seems to have had a sharp eye for business, as he contracted with the Postmaster General, during Queen Anne's reign, for the delivery of all letters between London and Tadcaster, Settle, and other Northern towns. The Post Office was next removed to a house, on the site on which the old Exchange Rooms were afterwards erected, but it still remained under the control of the Rawson family. Towards the close of last century it was kept by a spinster named "Gwynne," in a house in Millergate, at the top of Ivegate.

After her time it was removed, in 1805, to premises below the "Nag's Head," in Kirkgate, being kept by a Mr. Thomas Trout, familiarly known as "Tommy Trout." It remained in this family for a number of years. The population of Bradford at this time, including three townships, viz., Bowling, Manningham, and Horton, was 13,260, and the number of inhabited houses, 2,800. Bradford was also noted for the fact that two mail coaches passed through the town daily, one north, and the other south.

In the early portion of this century Bradford was made a head office, having a few sub-offices under it. Mr. Trout retained the Postmastership until his death, in 1814, at the age of 69, and an influential memorial was sent to the Postmaster-General, asking that Thos. Trout, a nephew of the late Postmaster, who had been his assistant, might have the vacant Postmastership. He received the appointment, and removed the Post Office to the corner of Bank Street, where he also carried on the business of auctioneer. It was removed again about 1816, to Toad Lane, opposite the end of Market Street. There was only one postman at this time, Ben Carrington, whose daughter acted as his assistant, but there being only a single delivery of letters daily, they were not hard worked. A mail was made up for Liverpool and other places every morning at 6 a.m., and one for Hull at 4 p.m. Six mail coaches passed through the town at this period, counting those on the return journeys, viz., "Highflyer," Leeds to Liverpool, arrived at 11 a.m. and returned at 2 p.m.; "Defiance," Hull to Liverpool, arrived at 8 a.m., and returned at 8 p.m.; and "Union," Leeds to Kendal, which arrived at the Talbot Hotel at 8 a.m. and returned at 8 p.m. When the coach entered the town all work used to be put on one side until after its departure.

The following was a list of charges for postage:—Bingley, 4d.; Boroughbridge, 7d.; Bolton, Lancashire, 7d.; Halifax, 4d.; Keighley, 4d.; Leeds, 4d.; Liverpool, 8d.; London, 11d.; Manchester, 7d.; Rochdale, 6d.; and York, 7d.

A system was in vogue of charging extra for delivery on letters, according to the distance from the Office. Persons objecting to this had the alternative of fetching their letters. Although this was satisfactory to the Post Officials, it was not so regarded by the tradespeople, who got up a memorial, presented in October 1829, praying for a free delivery. An inspector was sent down to inquire into the cause, and he reported that the revenue amounted to £4,500 per annum, that the Postman charged  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. extra upon all

letters delivered, which brought him in 20s. per week, and that a free delivery would involve an expenditure of 14s. per week: The report expressed regret that there was no alternative but to recommend such a large expenditure.

A free delivery was granted in 1829, but its area was very restricted. Two rural posts were sanctioned in 1824, one to Haworth, taking Cullingworth and Wilsden by the way, and the other to Shipley. They were called "penny posts" on account of one penny being charged upon each letter in addition to the ordinary postage. Jonas Turner was the first rural postman, and to cover his wages of 14s. per week this additional charge was made. He left for Haworth at 6.30 a.m. daily (except Sundays), returning at 1 p.m. In addition he carried parcels for Scotch packmen and others, which brought him in a few shillings a week extra. This rural delivery, however, involved a loss during its earlier years. About 1827 a horse post was attached to Shipley, Bingley, and Keighley, leaving daily at 6 a.m., and returning about 2 p.m.

At the end of 1830, Mr. Trout was dismissed from the Postmastership for "general negligence and contempt of orders." Several candidates applied for the vacancy, which was worth £140 per annum, being £100 salary, and £40 extra for late fee letters. Miss Mary Ann Trout, the dismissed Postmaster's daughter; Mr. Joseph Walker, grocer, Westgate; and a Mr. Jas. Stenson, of Leeds, were the chief candidates. Mr. Stenson was appointed, but resigned after holding the position for one week, complaining "that his health could not stand the harassing duties." Mr. Walker was then appointed, but two days were sufficient "to finish him off," he also complaining that "the duties were so harassing, both day and night, that his health would not permit him to hold the appointment." In explanation, I had better state that the mails from Manchester to Hull arrived in the night-time, and the letters were delivered, along with the London letters, at 7 a.m. the following morning. The mails from Leeds and York arrived at 11 a.m., and the carrier returned for these letters in order to finish his morning round. At 1.30 p.m. the Manchester mail arrived, and another delivery took place. Foreign bags were made up twice a week, viz., Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Two postmasters having resigned in one week, the district surveyor found himself in a dilemma. He, however, placed the office in charge of Mr. James Anderson, afterwards of the Leeds post office. Mr. Thomas Inkersley, bookseller and printer, was the

next Postmaster; he received his appointment in 1831. In 1834 he removed the Post Office from the Bowling Green to Kirkgate. In 1835 a memorial was sent to the Postmaster-General, praying him to grant postal facilities better than those which already existed. One cause of complaint was the late arrival of the London mail in Bradford. It was stated that the population numbered 44,000, but there were only two deliveries within the borough, and one postman to do the work. The memorialists prayed that a third delivery might take place in the evening after the arrival of the London mail, and that an additional postman might be appointed, both men to receive 20s. per week instead of 14s. In commenting upon this memorial, the *Bradford Observer*, in its issue of July 31, 1835, states:—

“We are glad that the memorialists, while seeking the promotion of their own interests, are not unmindful of those of the functionaries employed in the Post Office. It will hardly be credited that the postmaster of this town only receives the paltry salary of £100 a year. Yet such is the fact; although the population of the town has been trebled within a dozen years, and the trade has increased in a still greater proportion, yet the salary of the Postmaster has only been increased £20 during that period, it having formerly been £80 per annum. But even this is liberality itself when compared with the remuneration of the letter carrier. This poor fellow (John Hudson) executes both deliveries, each of which takes up four hours. Four times a week he has the additional task of walking to Apperley Bridge, thus averaging throughout the week a distance of twenty miles a day, which he performs winter and summer, in wet and dry weather, for the insignificant sum of 14s. per week. He has done this duty for upwards of fifteen years, and we believe not a single complaint has ever been made against him.”

The result of the memorial was the establishment of a horse post for the conveyance of the London bag to Bradford immediately upon its arrival in Leeds, returning in the evening with the foreign letters. An allowance was also granted for an additional postman. In those days the present regularity and punctuality in the arrival and despatch of the mails was unknown. Persons used to come to the office at all times, and the obliging clerk would often open the bags at 3 and 4 a.m. to relieve the suspense of one anxious to learn the condition of a relative or friend dangerously ill, or to allow a business man to see his letters before his departure by early coach. The “office lads” usually had to wait for hours for late mails, and indulged in all kinds of games in the Post Office Yard in order to beguile the time away.

Previous to the introduction of “penny postage” the rates of postage ranged as follows:—For any distance not exceeding 15

miles, 4d. ; 20 miles, 5d. ; 30 miles, 6d., &c., &c., but for a distance above 200 and under 300 miles the charge was one shilling each letter. In 1838 the staff consisted of one postmaster, Mr. Inkersley, two clerks, Robert Carter and John Vickerman, and three postmen. Mr. Vickerman resigned after one year's service, his place being taken by John Slater, the first clerk appointed by Government, the others having been engaged by the postmaster.\* The rural delivery was managed according to the best means available. The bags for Shipley, Bingley, Keighley, Cross Hills, and Skipton, were sent by mail cart ; those to Haworth, Thornton, Cullingworth, Wilsden, Eccleshill, Idle, &c., by messengers. A milkman carried the Allerton bag, and a postman the bag for Low Moor.

The introduction of penny postage by Sir Rowland Hill, in 1840, made a great difference in postal arrangements, so in 1841 Mr. Inkersley petitioned the Postmaster-General for an increase of salary, he having given up his printing business. His salary at this time was £100 ; including allowances it amounted to £235. After an interval of two and a half years he was granted an increase of £30. He died in 1844, after having held the position of postmaster for fourteen years. Mr. Watson, a master at the grammar school, received the appointment, which he held till his death, twelve months later. Mr. Coates was the next postmaster, appointed in May, 1845, at a salary of £250, out of which he paid the senior clerk £70, and the junior clerk £60, leaving his net income at £120 from Government. A third clerk was paid a salary of £50 by the Government. The Bradford Chamber of Commerce was established in 1851, and in the first year of its existence a memorial was presented to the Postmaster-General, the result being an increase in the number of mails received and despatched.

In 1867 the office was removed to Piccadilly, the old Exchange Buildings having been bought for this purpose. The telegraphs were added in 1870, and the addition of the Parcel Post necessitated further alterations, as the building had again become too small. Eventually a site for a new office was found beneath the walls of the Parish Churchyard, and the present building, opened in 1887, was erected.

Mr. Coates died in July, 1879, aged 72 years, having held the position of Postmaster for 34 years. He was succeeded by Mr. C.

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\* Slater afterwards emigrated to Australia, and in due time became Postmaster of Melbourne.

Sayers, who was transferred to Bradford in December, 1879, the salary being £600. His death took place in 1892, and Mr. J. Storey, who was chief clerk at Birmingham Post Office, received the appointment, commencing his duties with the New Year, 1893.

The population of the town now numbers over 220,000, having increased very rapidly of late years. There are six deliveries daily, as compared with four ten years ago, and ten collections. Had the Central Railway scheme gone forward, the office would have been of even greater importance than it is at present, as Bradford would have become a much better forwarding centre.

Bradford.

F. BARRACLOUGH.



"Is this the General Post Office?"

"Yes, mum."

"Then will you just have the goodness to stamp my little boy here and send him off to Gravesend?"

We have to thank Mr. Etherton, of Worthing, for the loan of the lithograph after Leech from which this drawing has been made.

## *Money Order Office Gossip and History.*

### PART II.

**I**T appears that the statements in the first part of this gossiping history, relative to the old-time conviviality in the Money Order Office, have been misunderstood. Some readers seem to have imagined that it was only in that Office that eleven-o'clock tippling was allowed, and that generally the Money Order Office was the least respectable branch of the Post Office. I do not for a moment suppose this to have been the case. Probably all the older branches could be tarred with the same brush. This at all events is certain, that life in the Money Order Office is to-day "proper" to a degree, and that for years past the Office has had the reputation of enjoying the doubtful blessing of the strictest discipline to be found in the Civil Service. In one point, however, an error did creep in. The statement that the practices in question did not cease till 1876 is incorrect, for it seems that they had died out some five or six years earlier.

Having said thus much by way of apology, I may take this opportunity of mentioning one or two further anecdotes of official life in the "good old days." What, I wonder, would the present Controller say to the man who, many years since, absented himself the first three days of the week, and then explained on the Thursday morning that he must have overslept himself, for he could not otherwise account for the three missing days?

A still more genuinely Irish exploit is sometimes related with much gusto by a paper-keeper still on the staff, who, coming one morning very late to the office, brought with him his clock—weights, pendulum, and all—to show the Controller the exact hour at which the erring timekeeper ceased to work, and thus misled its innocent owner.



N<sup>o</sup> 810 £ 10/-

Post Office, *Quaker*

*July 22 18 39*

CREDIT the Person named in my Letter of Advice

the Sum of *ten pounds*

and debit the same to this Office.

To the Post Office,

*M. J. Morgan*

*R. J.*

FAC-SIMILE OF ORDER ISSUED BEFORE THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE DEPARTMENT.  
The above was printed at the top of first page of a quarto sheet of paper, the remaining space being used for private communications from the remitter to the payee.

The main current of Money Order history has been followed as far as the reforms effected by the Departmental Committee of 1859. But before that date there had been begun, in a tentative way, a new arrangement, which has since had far-reaching consequences. It was in the beginning of 1856, when the Crimean war was drawing near its close, and the organization of the army, so cruelly defective two years before, was being perfected, that the Money Order system was temporarily extended to Constantinople, Scutari, and Balaclava, to enable the troops to send home remittances to their friends. In that year no less than £106,000 was so sent to England, and on the 15th May permanent packet agencies were opened at Gibraltar and Malta, which were, till 1886, treated, so far as the Office accounts were concerned, exactly like British Post Offices.

Another step forward was made in 1859, when a Money Order Convention was arranged with Canada. Although four times the Inland commission was charged, the plan was from the outset a great success, and it opened out a wide vision of future extension to the Postmaster-General of the day, who took up the prophet's mantle and prophesied as follows:—

“This enlargement of the Money Order system has worked very satisfactorily, and will, I hope, soon lead to its extension to other Colonies. Such an extension would, I am convinced, be productive of much good; would save much money that now probably runs to waste; would afford great relief to many weak or aged persons, separated by the broad ocean from the younger and more vigorous members of their family; and would materially promote self-supporting emigration.”

To a greater extent than most persons are aware this forecast has been realised. But let us not anticipate. The ball having been once fairly set rolling, new Conventions came thick and fast. In 1862 and 1863 the Money Order system was extended to Cape Colony, to the Australian and several of the West Indian Colonies, the rest of which soon followed suit. More remote colonies were enrolled a few years later, and since that time the Money Order system may fairly be said to have followed the British flag. Zululand and Matabeleland are the latest additions to the list, and there is, I think, no British possession of any importance to which an Order cannot be sent save Fiji, Uganda, and British New Guinea.

With foreign countries development was much slower, the difficulties being greater, especially those arising from questions of

No. 1908

£	s.	d.
1	13	—

Post Office,                     

CREDIT the Person named in my Letter of Advice  
the Sum of one Pounds, thirteen Shillings,            Pence,  
and debit the same to this Office.

To the Post Office, London

Postmaster,                     

Received the above

*The Party to whom this Order is made payable, must sign here  
his or her Christian and Surname at full length  
except in the case of Firms, whose usual Signature will suffice.*

**N.B.** If this Form be clipped, or mutilated, there may be difficulty as to paying it.

If the Receipt above is properly signed by the person to whom the order is made payable, and the party presenting the order for payment can afford full information as to the Christian Name, Surname, Address, and Occupation of the Person who originally obtained the order, payment will be made to the party presenting the order, but, unless these conditions are strictly complied with, it will be refused. Orders may, however, be issued to or in favor of Firms, without requiring the Christian Names of the Partners in such Firms.

*N.B.*—Orders are issued and paid in London and within the Three Mile circle, and Dublin and Edinburgh, between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. and in other places between the hours of 9 A.M. and 6 P.M. except during the short intervals of time when the Letter Boxes are closed for the receipt of paid Letters.

The Commission on orders issued is, for any Sum not exceeding £2, *Three-Pence*; above £2, and not exceeding £5, *Sixpence*.

FAC-SIMILE OF ORDER ISSUED IN 1848.

however, kept back France till 1875. Meanwhile other countries, including the United States, had joined, and all the more progressive States of the world have since effected Money Order Conventions with us. There is still, however, much land to be possessed. Neither Russia nor Spain have Money Order systems at all, and

there is considerable hesitation in signing conventions with Brazil, Argentina, &c., owing chiefly to the unsatisfactory condition of their currency. Such obstacles should not be insuperable, and the Post Office ought to be at least as able to do business in these countries as the Cheque Bank. It is most important that the Money Order system should be extended to remote countries and new colonies, even though such business can hardly be remunerative; as in such places banking facilities hardly exist, and Money Orders help, on the one hand to open up the new land, and on the other to form a link of connection with the old mother country. Yet the multiplicity of Conventions with small and remote places, using various languages and puzzling currencies, increases immensely the work at headquarters. It is in several respects as much trouble to send one Order a week, say to Mombasa or Sarawak, as to send a thousand to New South Wales or Canada; and, save for the imperial and economic considerations already referred to, it certainly does not pay to carry on Money Order business with these small places. The Foreign and Colonial Branch of the Money Order Office now conducts a most complicated business. It is supposed to have the world's geography at its fingers' ends; to be able to find out the whereabouts of every remote hamlet in South Africa or North America; to read half a dozen foreign languages; to understand a score of systems of currency; to pacify hungry and dirty Polish Jews and Italians of the most cut-throat appearance, whose ignorance of the English language is only equalled by their inability to grasp our system, and by the obstinacy with which they refuse to understand, in any language, the plain statement that there is no money for them.

Such are some of the tasks which fall to the lot of the clerks in the foreign and correspondence branches, and which are covered in the Postmaster-General's report by the simple statement that one-and-a-half millions of Foreign and Colonial Orders were dealt with last year.

The officers dealing with personal enquiries have some odd experiences in trying to talk to foreign applicants. If one tells them they can have their money they always seem to understand; but if one looks sympathetic and regrets that there is no trace of their remittance, they either won't understand, or else pour forth a voluble and pathetic account of their woes. Of course, one can do nothing but wait till they have finished, and then again regret, etc., till at last they depart, weeping, swearing, or deploring your stupidity in not understanding them. A little while since two German Jews



came in about an Order. One could speak only Yiddish, and couldn't write at all; the other *spoke* also bad German and thus interpreted for his friend, but even the interpreter could *write* only Yiddish, so that, when we had to get the applicant's signature, he had to make a mark which the other man purported to witness by certain cabalistic signs, which we assumed represented his name. Only recently a German gentleman and French lady came in together. The German knew a little English, but the lady being the real applicant, she was addressed in French. The clerk in question was rather proud of his French accent, and was therefore taken aback when the gentleman interrupted him to explain that the lady could not understand *English*. Fortunately she came to the rescue, and the clerk's reputation was saved. Applicants are sometimes polite to a degree, especially Hungarians or Frenchmen, and ask one to come and have a glass of wine or to accept a cigar (no doubt thinking a refusal mere rudeness); but by the time an unfortunate applicant has been thrust about from office to office, and finally packed off in the official 'bus from St. Martin's to Mount Pleasant, he has more often lost his temper, and it is not pleasant to have to listen to an excitable foreigner who vents his disappointment in strong language, refuses to go away, and demands justice against a perfidious department.

So much for the Foreign Branch, which we have found began before 1860—the important year in which the first Post Office Savings Bank Act was passed, embodying the suggestions of Mr. Scudamore and of Mr. Chetwynd, the Chief Ledger Keeper of the Money Order Office. The latter became the first Controller of the Savings Bank, which was opened in the following year, and was largely manned by Mr. Chetwynd's old colleagues. The rapid success of the Savings Bank Department attracted a large amount of public and of official attention, and the older Money Order Office, formerly the most progressive branch of the Post Office, fell into the background.

In the report for 1862 the question of the commission payable on Orders for small amounts was first mentioned, and continued to agitate the Office for the next 18 years, when it was solved, not finally perhaps, by the introduction of Postal Orders. In 1862, however, it was simply noted that there could be no need to issue Orders under £2 at low rates, because even the 3d. minimum commission then charged did not pay, and the facilities for exchanging postage stamps for money had been very largely used, especially for

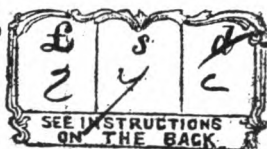
amounts between 1s. and 5s. It should, however, be remembered that the system was never expected to be remunerative, but was established for the benefit of the public.

M.O.O.

C. H. DENVER.

(To be continued.)

**IXWORTH,**  
(Suffolk.)



138.

Credit

the Person named in my

£ 2 4 2 Pounds, Seven  
and debit the same to this Office.

To the Post Office

at Cambridge  
William B. Balfour Postmaster.

The Party to whom this Order is made payable, must sign here his or her Christian and Surname at full length, except in the case of Firms, whose usual Signature will suffice.

Received the above

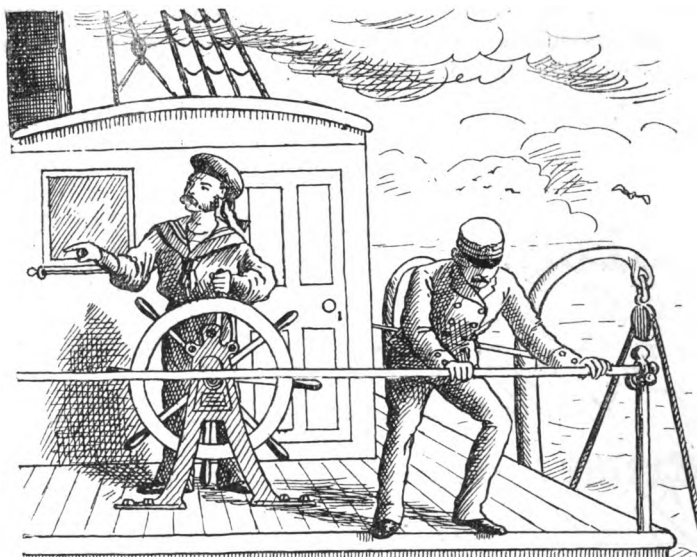
Signature

N.B.—Payment of this Order must be obtained before the end of The second Calendar Month after that in which it was Issued [for instance, if issued in January, it must be paid before the end of March], otherwise a new Order will be necessary, for which a second Commission will be charged. And if the Order be not paid before the end of the Twelfth Calendar Month after that in which it was Issued [for instance, if issued in January and not paid before the end of the next January], all claim to the Money will be lost. AFTER ONCE PAYING A MONEY ORDER BY WHOMSOEVER PRESENTED THE OFFICE WILL NOT BE LIABLE TO ANY FURTHER CLAIM.

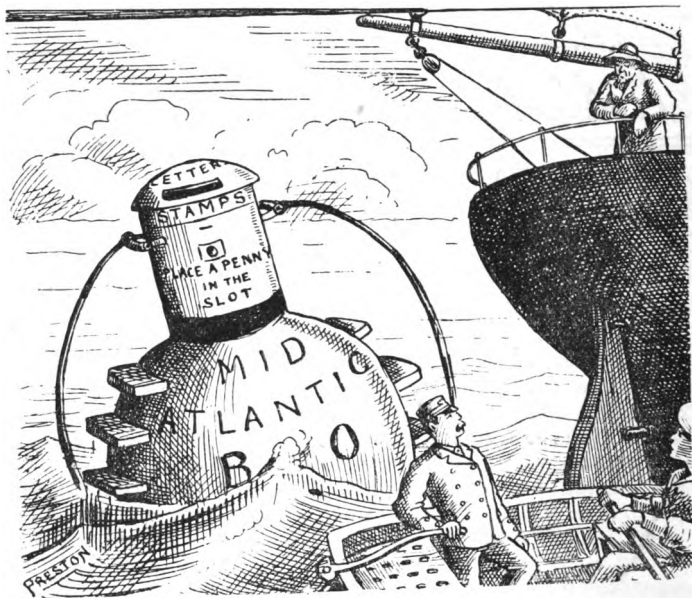
If this form be clipped or mutilated there may be difficulty as to paying it.

[SEE BACK]

FAC-SIMILE OF ORDER ISSUED IN 1854.



Steersman—"Barque on the starboard bow, Sir, with her Union down."  
 Officer on Watch—"Stand by, there, to man the port galley. A vessel in distress."



"What can we do for you? What's the matter?"  
 Skipper—"Nothin' the matter, Cap'n, could you 'blige us with a stamp?  
 'This here slot buoy's jammed."



## *Mr. Baines and his Book.\**

**F**ORTY Years at the Post Office" is the title under which Mr. Baines has thought fit to mask his book. Doubtless he is justified by success: the newspapers and reviews have been quick to let men know that Mr. Baines is no tape-bound chronicler of small beer, but that his pages hum with the spin of the world down the grooves of change. And keenly conscious has he been of the movement. To him the Post Office is, and has been, the centre of all things: round St. Martin's-le-Grand has revolved all England, save for that short moment when the circle of things became an ellipse with a second focus in Telegraph Street.

In the days of the Reform Bill begins the roll of the mighty Epic. Telford and Macadam had lived to make roads for the Post Office, even as the gods had toiled to build the walls of Troy: after them came Stephenson and Brunel, but the railways were only the slaves of the mail: the lightnings came down from heaven at the call of Morse and of Wheatstone, but it was for the Post Office that they ran to and fro. Herein is the charm of the book. We have read of these things before in the dull prose of histories of civilization and histories of progress: now we see them take their due subordinate places in the orderly pageant of the Postal Epic.

We cannot trace, in this short notice, the thread of the forty years of Mr. Baines' service, or the sixty years of his history, which have left him naive and boyish still. He shows us in infinite detail how the mail coach climbed the hills, and how the postal train goes ahead through the night; he looks lovingly down on the cradle of the

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\* "Forty Years at the Post Office." A personal narrative by F. E. Baines, C.B., sometime Surveyor-General for telegraph business, Assistant Secretary and Inspector-General of Mails. In two volumes. London: Richard Bentley and Son. 1895.

infant telegraph, and then points us onward to the multiplex, the telephone, and the ocean cables: the Savings Bank starts into life and grows to its giant stature: everything runs from units to millions, and Mr. Baines runs alongside, galumphing. It is a wondrous tale, and true as it is wondrous. There is no office but the Post Office, and Baines is its prophet. But he is too discursive, and too flamboyant. He describes Scudamore as "a fluent writer of sound, *if copious*, English": what would he say of himself? And he is not always accurate with the accuracy of an official. Postcards and postal orders sanctioned by Lord Playfair, who became Postmaster-General in 1873! History tells a different tale, and we trust that Mr. Baines will do likewise in a second edition.

Minute criticism of details is, however, misplaced. The romance of the Post Office has got into Mr. Baines' head, and no wonder. It is not given to everybody to be both the Ajax and the Homer of the same Iliad. We would fain turn from Mr. Baines the rhapsodist to Mr. Baines the mighty man of action. The days of Rowland Hill are far off now, and since the advent of the penny post there have been but two events which have turned the Post Office upside down: the telegraph acquisition and the parcel post. Of both our hero may say "*Pars magna fui*."

It is a pleasant thing for him to remember that he was one of the earliest sponsors of the great telegraph idea: it is a greater thing that he stood at Scudamore's right hand in the stress of the transfer. They were a strenuous band—those disciples of Scudamore—unlike each other, but still more unlike the ordinary civil servant. They toiled terribly—night and day: they took enormous responsibilities in their stride: they scouted tradition and cut new paths: they hated red tape and believed in strength, and, withal, they were dreadfully restless.

"Nil actum credens quum quid superesset agendum" may be the motto of the whole Post Office now, but it was not always so: it was once the motto of a few, of whom Mr. Baines was one of the leaders. It is an enjoyment to look on as they fight the great battle over again. Mr. Baines in his book, Mr. Johnston in this magazine, have told us what it was. But there was one who did not beat the drum. We recognized the note of force about Mr. Baines, but in the "*imperatoria brevis*" of Patey there was power—the rarer gift than force. Most likely these two men were the best fitted of all of us to help their chief to do a very big thing; Mr. Baines is to be pardoned if he mislearnt from his master the fatal habit of over-

indulgence in ink. Who did not regret the absence of Mr. Baines from the Telegraph Jubilee dinner! Scudamore and Patey are dead, but the third should have been there to speak to us of the past:

“Old men forget, yet all shall be forgot  
But he'll remember, with advantages,  
What feats he did that day: Then shall our names,  
Familiar in his mouth as household words,

Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.”

The heroic age of the Telegraph passed into a soberer history, and then came the upheaval of the Parcel Post. It was a sign of the fusion of the services that the Surveyor-General of Telegraphs became Inspector-General of Mails with another world set before him to conquer. And this time there was no Scudamore. It is true that there was Fawcett, but no doubt it was Mr. Baines that really drew the train. The work was enormous, but the force applied was very visible. Another hand than his must some day write the history of the parcel post. Perhaps there was a bad bargain, it is certain there was much advertisement; but the Inspector-General of Mails triumphantly showed that he was a man who could put a thing through somehow. He recognizes, in a way one likes to see, the services of the staff of the Home Mails branch, though, oddly enough, he makes a mistake in the list of names. He achieved a success, and the second act of the Epic was over, with himself as Protagonist. Perhaps the famous Postal Jubilee may be taken as marking the close of the age of the giants, and, if so, it was right that the Inspector-General of Mails should be the central figure. His relentless energy was good to see, and so, also, was the faith that obliterated all sense of the ridiculous.

Faith in the Post Office is the key note of this remarkable book: faith in the Post Office, and in himself, is the keynote of its remarkable hero.

Our task, in these days, will not perhaps be like his. There may be no more whirlwinds for us to ride, no more new spheres for us to explore. But there is no reason why boredom should be the note of our service in place of the too exuberant faith of Mr. Baines; there is no advantage in letting hatred of advertisement develop into cynical contempt for public opinion.

And so we take leave of a readable book, and, with greater regret, we part from a very human man who believes in the Post Office.

## Mr. Hyde and his Reviewer.

*To the Editor of ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.*

SIR,

Whoever ventures to write a book must submit to the judgment of its critics in matters pertaining to style, method, and arrangement. But as regards facts the case is perhaps different; and on this assumption I would desire to point out one or two things in which your reviewer seems to have erred in dealing with my book in the last number of *St. Martin's-le-Grand*.

He commences by quoting the first part of the first sentence of the preface, and thereupon suggests or insinuates, if he does not plainly impute, that what I proceed to state is an intentional, and therefore discreditable, disparagement of the works of others who have written upon the history of the Post Office at large. I disclaim any such intention, and the language used by me cannot, I think, bear out such a meaning. In the second line of my preface I use the limiting words *detailed* account of the *first* establishment of the Post Office for the use of the public. To this *first* establishment I have assigned forty years, which is perhaps a fair and reasonable measure of time. But your reviewer appears to imagine that the *first* establishment of the Post Office is not to be comprised in less a period than two centuries. Then he proceeds to mention that Lewins in "*Her Majesty's Mails*" "describes much of the early history of the office in almost as much detail as Mr. Hyde's new work." I have looked into my copy of Lewins' book, and find that the stirring period with which I deal—the Civil War, the Commonwealth, and the Restoration—and in respect of which alone I make any claim, is disposed of by him in a space of less than twenty pages. In the other history confidently referred to by your reviewer the space assigned to this portion of the Post Office history is a little over twenty pages. So much for the accuracy of comparisons as relating to my work.

Your reviewer will perhaps be surprised to learn that up to the time when my book came to the hands of the public I had not read Mr. Joyce's work—and this from motives which may possibly occur to honest minds. But, by a three minutes' inspection of the book, I satisfied myself that it did not deal in detail with the early and limited period upon which I had been engaged for years.

I have not claimed, as assumed by your reviewer, that my book "*The Post in Grant and Farm*" is a history of the *Post Office*. Nor have I wished it to be understood that I am the "first and most

complete historian of the Post Office." Within the boards of my book there is no such suggestion. Neither have I represented that "no detailed account of the *growth*" of the Post Office had previously been given. My whole reference is to the *first establishment* of the institution. What my work professes to give is "a fairly full and true account of the first forty years' existence of the Inland Posts in Britain"—that is its scope, as is plainly set forth in the Preface.

Your reviewer challenges the accuracy of one or two incidents mentioned by me. As to these, I shall be ready to give my authorities when called upon to do so.

It is hard to divine from what motions of the mind your critic's cynical diatribe has sprung. Charity will, I hope, ascribe it to errors of understanding rather than to malevolence.

The first quarter's Magazine for 1894 contained a review, than which, for fair criticism and considerate treatment of the living and the dead alike, nothing could be better; and to that review the writer, conscious of his own equitable dealing, was not ashamed to put his name. If the review department of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* does not speedily return to a similar course of fair treatment, its reputation in unbiassed minds will certainly suffer.

J. W. HYDE.

Edinburgh, 28th January, 1895.

*To the Editor of ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.*

SIR,

As Mr. Wilson Hyde has taken the somewhat unusual step of circulating to the readers of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* a printed letter protesting against a review of "The Post in Grant and Farm" in the last issue, you will no doubt wish to give full publicity to his protest by publishing the letter, and you may perhaps be willing to add some further explanation from the Reviewer of the remarks which, to his great regret, have so deeply offended Mr. Wilson Hyde.

Mr. Hyde states that he does not care to challenge the judgment of his critic on matters pertaining to style, method, arrangement or historical accuracy, but he bases his complaint on a misrepresentation of the effect of certain statements in the preface of his work. In the review serious objection was taken to the following assertion:—

"There has not hitherto been published any detailed account of the first establishment in this country of the Post Office as a public institution, nor does it appear that anything has been made known of the men who were instrumental in building up this useful fabric in the years of its infancy beyond the barren mention of their names." This assertion is strengthened in the preface by the following addition:—"In some cases, moreover, in such bald notices as have been given of the early posts, important names are wholly omitted, and in others the names of men are associated with events in which they had little concern." These statements were understood by the Reviewer to contain a sweeping condemnation of the only two histories

of the Post Office which have appeared, one at least of which, in the Reviewer's opinion, contains a clearer and better account, viewed as history, than does Mr. Hyde's book, of the rise of the Post Office in the 17th century. The average reader, with whom in this matter the Reviewer ranks himself, would pretty certainly take the same view. If these two books were not in Mr. Hyde's view, the Critic is at a loss to know to what writings he referred.

Mr. Hyde now explains that his remarks were intended to apply only to writings on the period of forty years, from 1635 to 1675, with which he especially deals, and that he meant no more than that he has "disclosed" more details about the Post Office men and their work in that period than any previous writer. This claim the Reviewer is ready to admit, and indeed did admit in the review, but he still thinks the limitation is one which the average reader would fail to grasp, as he did, in an ordinarily careful reading of the preface. Now, however, that Mr. Hyde has explained that he intended to limit the early part of the preface by his later statement, your Reviewer is quite willing to say that he may have been unintentionally unfair to Mr. Hyde in reading the later statement by the light of what he considered an unjustifiable assertion in the first part. Perhaps he may be allowed also to emphasise here what was indicated in the review, that Mr. Hyde has published for the first time in a collected form, much interesting matter, which vividly illustrates early Post Office history. The Reviewer's feelings towards the book were certainly not those of malevolence, but merely of regret that a work containing so much new and picturesque material should appeal so entirely to the general reader, and disregard in its method and arrangement the serious student of Post Office history.

Mr. Hyde says that the fact that he had not read one of the works referred to in the review when he wrote his book may be a surprise to his critic, although, as he adds, the reason will occur to honest minds. The Critic certainly was, and is, in the belief that it is the first duty of a historical writer to acquaint himself with the best authorities on his subject. Had Mr. Hyde not taken an opposite view it is possible that some pages of his book might not have been written as they now appear.

The review in the first issue for 1894, to which Mr. Hyde refers, was not, as he supposes, signed by its writer. It was written hastily on the eve of a holiday, and, like the review complained of, was sent unsigned to the Editor.\* Not until some weeks after its publication did the writer become aware that there had been appended to it in the press the name of

YOUR REVIEWER.

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\* We can fully confirm the accuracy of this statement.—*Editor.*

## After Office Hours.

### At Westminster.

I HOLD a cherished conviction, based not so much on my own experience as on that of my friends, that love at first sight is one of the most unenduring things in the universe, and that the more persistent passion is that which, like the oak, is of slow growth. My favourite heroine is the lady who fell in love with her husband on the anniversary of her fifth wedding day. Now, some among us fall in love with places with almost as intense a passion as we do with individuals. But others, of whom I am one, grow into a state of affection rather than fall, and this has certainly been my experience with regard to the City of London. It is difficult to convey to my readers the feeling of aversion I experienced for the place of my adoption when I first took up my residence in her midst at the age of fifteen. Nothing would satisfy me but to live in a distant suburb on the edge of the country I loved so well, where I could, in the evening, forget the horror, the misery, and the eternal noise of the big town in which during the day time I was obliged to earn my daily bread. But London even at that early date had marked my unquiet soul as her own, and little by little, through long months and years of chequered fortunes and experiences, she succeeded in casting over me that spell which has at last drawn me to her bosom. I first became conscious of the power of that spell when, some years ago, on my annual holiday I caught myself several times longing for London. It was a new experience ; I was ashamed of it at the time : I thought it was my liver, and I took some medicine and made a fresh dive into the mountains. But each succeeding holiday the feeling has returned, and within the last two years I have serenely faced the fact that sooner or later even the distant suburb must be abandoned. London was claiming me for her very own, and the mere hanging on her skirts I began to realise was only flirtation, and *la grande passion* cannot stop at that stage. In September last I took the last step in a long series of capitulations, and London and I became united. I moved to a flat in Westminster ; I turned my back on the distant suburb with its little cliques, its commonplace life, and its terrible boredom. I had done with flirtation. I said to my mistress, "Take me and do what you will with me ; I cannot live without you : I love you." And our union has stood during six months' honeymoon the surest of all tests ; no shadow of disillusionment has come between us ; we are growing

in affection the one for the other. Love is blind, but I have yet to learn the disadvantages of Westminster. Look out of my window on one of those days when you read in the journals that bright sunshine has been recorded at Westminster. On these days the Abbey changes in colour every moment like some big mountain, full of infinite suggestion to the artistic temperament; and by her side, rising full in front of me, dominating the landscape, is the Victoria Tower, impressive, vast, and, *pace* architectural critics, beautiful in the sunlight—

“All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.”

From my balcony I can watch the silvery Thames, for silvery it looks even here at my convenient distance, and I catch sight, as they pass me, of steamers and barges and all the rich and varied life of the river. The very chimney pots which come between me and my grander views have their own particular charm: they communicate that sense of life in all its fulness and variety which is inspiration to certain temperaments,

“And wreaths of smoke  
Sent up in silence from among the trees.”

For trees read chimney pots, and let us pray for forgiveness from the outraged Wordsworth.

And then the sounds of Westminster! Do you know what it is to fall in love with a beautiful voice? Well, the voice of Westminster is Big Ben. Four times an hour Big Ben booms out his solemn message, with that full, deep, penetrating note we all know so well. How gently the sound first falls upon the ear, stealing, as it were, insinuatingly into your senses, gathering strength with every fresh vibration, but never so much as startling or jarring the most sensitive nerves, lingering tremblingly in the air, and finally dying away imperceptibly on the breeze. If you lie awake at nights—and I am always an indifferent sleeper—it is company for you, and while the sound fascinates you, it never really wakes you if you are asleep or keeps you awake if you want to sleep. With every change of wind his voice varies as heard from my flat, and there have been days in this cruel winter when he seemed so far off and melancholy that at times, musing by the fireside, I have had bad dreams that I was again in the distant suburb, where on fine calm nights we could sometimes hear the same sound.

Step outside my flat and think of where you are. Literally on holy ground, where a good half of what is labelled English history has been manufactured. Is there any other corner of the United Kingdom to compare with it for memories? I rarely cross to Parliament Street without calling up in my imagination some page of that past. Like Mr. Froude, my history is often of my own creation, but it is picturesque and glowing with imagination. *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*, and everything unpleasant which has happened here I consider it my duty to forget. For Westminster is very much like a woman or a man “with a past,” and we hide



that past which is unpleasant from our minds if the present is interesting and enduring. I am something of a politician and I like somehow to feel that I am as near to the House of Commons as it is lawful for a Civil Servant to be. Civil Servants are forbidden by Departmental regulations to directly approach members of Parliament, applications made through them being "calculated to defeat rather than promote the object in view." There is no regulation, however, which can interfere with my nightly talks with the policemen outside the House on the events which are happening inside. I am not at all sure whether, as human beings, these men are not, taken as a body, vastly more interesting than the members themselves. For my purposes they are sometimes more influential. I remember, after having tried in vain one night by all legitimate means to enter the Speaker's Gallery, a friend in the Force came to my aid and by a dexterous manœuvre obtained me the desired entry. Applications through members of Parliament even for orders are calculated to defeat rather than to promote the object in view. Far better to ask a policeman; he knows the ropes *and* the attendants. When the House is sitting I experience a certain mild excitement in wandering about the precincts of the building, feeling perhaps that I too am concerned in the manufacture of history which is going on. Members have told me how everybody, friend and foe, misses the Grand Old Man from his seat on the front bench, but outside he is missed quite as much. The hanger-on outside misses more than he can express the familiar figure walking or driving to Parliament. The interesting personalities of the Houses of Parliament are now very few in number, and there is no commanding figure in either Assembly. No one feels this more keenly than the policemen and the hanger-on outside. They lament together over the degeneracy of the times, over the decline of hero worship; and they talk together of the great days when Disraeli and Gladstone, Peel and Bright, Cobden and Palmerston found their way into the affections and hatreds of Englishmen by the sheer force of their own personalities. So much for my political surroundings. Then, think of it, dream of it, ye dwellers in provincial towns and commonplace suburbs! I am within five minutes of Charing Cross, where, on the authority of Dr. Johnson, "the full tide of existence runs." Even the most beautiful landscape palls upon us in time, because of its remoteness from our needs and sympathies. But Charing Cross, with her neighbourhood, is eager, active, restless, and her humanity is magnificently infectious. It is the place for a *live man par excellence*. After an hour or two occupied in stringing words together in prose or verse, living as one does in that way, in a world of ideas of one's own, what can be better than contact with the great realities of life which possess and dominate a great thoroughfare? Some men tell me that in such circumstances a walk under the moon and stars is best for their temperaments. I cannot speak for others, but the "eternal silences" only carry *me* farther away than ever from the *mens sana in corpore sano*. Give me Charing Cross; she is the

restorer of my mental equilibrium; she is eager and active, as I would be, were it not for my accursed meditative temperament; she has no sympathy with dreams and imaginings; here is tragedy and comedy, the real as well as the nominal *pell mell* of life. If I want country, I have Battersea Park, the Green Park, St. James' Park close at hand, while in a few moments I can, by taking the train from Victoria, Waterloo, or Charing Cross, be in the heart of Kent or Surrey. Paradoxical as it may seem, I am nearer to the country than I was in Hampstead. The spell Westminster casts over me is not limited to sensuous impressions. I have been all my life struggling to shake off the political and theological faith of my fathers, in which I was brought up, and I have been endeavouring to enter some crypt of my own or of others' creation where I could embrace some more inspiring political faith or purer creed. But the influence of things as they are, and especially of the Established Church, is very strong at Westminster. I find that in spite of having Mr. Labouchere as a near neighbour, I am drifting into a position in which reverence for old institutions is the most marked characteristic. You cannot help being a Conservative in the best sense of the word here. It is possible that you may be able to remain a Gladstonian because, of course, that is Conservatism at its very best, and it implies something with a past, and a not altogether inglorious past. Moreover, Gladstonianism was born and grew up out of reverence for an Old Institution. Gladstonianism is more or less dead and outside the realm of practical politics, and so it is all the easier to hold as a political creed. But it is hard, very hard, to keep a Socialist, a Progressive, or a Socinian under the shadow of the Abbey. You positively gloat over abuses so long as they are ancient. Dean's Yard declines the assistance of the main drainage, and promotion among the Dean and Chapter is consequently more rapid than it is in the Post Office. And in my flat I have resolutely excluded gas and electric light simply because their use offends my sense of the fitness of things. If I had a seat in the House I should vote against the disestablishment of the Welsh Church. She is an ancient abuse and so has established her claim with me to exist.

Finally, and for a Bohemian like myself this is perhaps the greatest charm of my situation, I am close to the play, to my club, and even to the music hall. The men, and even the women of my set, are Bohemians, artists, journalists, playgoers, and ne'er-do-wells, and they are all within reach of my dwelling. Edmund Yates once said that a surveying appointment in the Post Office was not an object of his ambition: the bare possibility of having to spend an evening in places like Sittingbourne or Stony Stratford frightened him from the career. The Bohemian cannot be transplanted. He must, if he wish to live creditably, keep well within the cab radius; and if he is lucky enough to die within the sound of Big Ben, why,

"Nothing in his life  
Becomes him like the leaving it."

E. B.

# St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

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## Burdett's Blunders and Burdett's Bounce.

**M**R. BURDETT is a curious person. He is an official of the Stock Exchange and publishes from time to time a manual of figures bearing on stocks and shares. Presumably, therefore, he should be a man of accuracy, indeed it might be expected that he would be a man of more, much more, than average accuracy where facts and figures are concerned. He is also a man of glaring and well advertised *charity* in the modern, though as the sequel will show, not in the Pauline sense of the word. He recently wrote a letter to the *Times* in which, after describing himself as the "Chancellor of the Exchequer for British Charities," he went on to prove by figures that during the past few years the income of certain hospitals had increased three times as fast as the expenditure.

A day or two after he found that he had made a little mistake, and that what he should have said was that the expenditure had increased three times as fast as the income. This is the manner in which the self-appointed Chancellor announced the fact that he had made this mistake (the italics are ours):—

"I regret to find that in some way, for which I am unable to account, the income and expenditure figures have been reversed. . . *The figures themselves were perfectly accurate, and remain unaltered.* . . . It is satisfactory to find that the reversal of the figures does not upset my contention, for *it merely diminishes the volume of the increase* in the income of the hospitals, whilst the increase itself stands."

\* \* \*

Soon afterwards this great and good man was patronizing a meeting in aid of an institution for the blind, and in the course of his speech he denounced the Post Office for rejecting some basketwork, and declared that this was due to "blackmailing by underlings," "palm oil," and "the sort of thing which had brought China to its present pass." "Mr. Arnold Morley must stop it, or Mr. Arnold Morley will have to go. He (Mr. Burdett) would turn a Government out on it."

The Postmaster-General called on Mr. Burdett to substantiate his statements or apologize. Mr. Burdett shuffled, but finally he did manage to regret that he had based his remarks on something "which my informant is now unable to stand by," and elsewhere he said "It

is satisfactory to find the Post Office cleared of a doubt which had been thrown on the honour of its officers; it is not, however, so entirely satisfactory to observe the manner in which the complaint, obviously made in all honesty, was received by the department."

As Mr. Burdett is such a poor hand at apologizing, it was well that a question put by Sir John Leng in Parliament, on the 18th February, gave Mr. Morley an opportunity of putting clearly before the public the actual facts. The reply was as follows:—

"The charges brought by Mr. Burdett were practically two:—

*Firstly*:—That some of the blind schools could not deal with my department because of a system there which permitted a certain amount of blackmailing on the part of certain of its officers.

*Secondly*:—That I myself, or at any rate the Post Office, knew something of the matter because a case had been brought directly under notice of the 'Post Office Authorities.'

The first charge was based upon hearsay, which was found by Mr. Burdett himself—as soon as he made enquiry—to be wholly untrue: the second charge, so far as I have been able to ascertain, was not even based upon hearsay, but had no foundation whatever.

I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise that a gentleman in Mr. Burdett's position should bring charges affecting the honour of the officers of a public department upon no better authority than hearsay in one instance, and upon no discoverable ground whatever in the other."

### **An International Postage Stamp.**

**T**HAT an international postage stamp would be a convenience to many persons is admitted, but most of the paragraphs on the subject which have recently appeared in the press, show that people are fully alive to the very great difficulties which stand in the way of its adoption.

Fully to carry out the idea of an international postage stamp, it would in the first place be necessary to have an international coinage. This, of course, is utterly hopeless and therefore the plans put forward for the international stamp are of a limited character and are based on the idea that the stamp must be issued in such a form that it shall not be possible for speculators to make money by transferring it in large numbers from one country where it is cheap to another where it is dear. We are not aware that at present any plan has been made public which would meet this difficulty.

### **Foreign Mail Notes.**

**A**S the result of protracted negotiations between the British and Australasian postal authorities, it is now decided, says the *Times*, that the existing federal mail contracts with the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient Companies shall be extended another two years from January 31, 1896—i.e., until January 31, 1898, when

the India and China contract will terminate. The Postmaster-General has been endeavouring to bring about this result for the last eighteen months, but has experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining the consent of the colonies. Under the existing arrangement, which has been in operation since February, 1888, a weekly service is conducted *via* Suez, by means of alternate fortnightly trips made by the Peninsular and the Orient Companies, which receive a total subsidy of £170,000 per annum, towards which the Imperial Government contributes £95,000 and the colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia £75,000, distributed on the basis of population. The colonies hope for a reduction in the amount of the subsidies and for an acceleration of the service. They also look to the mail steamship companies for greater assistance in the distribution of their dairy and fruit produce, enormous quantities of which are now available for shipment to the United Kingdom every season. At both the Brisbane and Wellington Postal Conferences, as also at the one just held at Hobart, great importance was attached to concessions upon this point. Another demand, to which the pressure of the labour party upon the various colonial governments has compelled the conferences to attach much importance, is that the mail steamers of the contracting companies should be manned by white crews. The companies have indicated that they would not be prepared to entertain such wide variations of their existing contract during the two year's extension which has been arranged, but they have consented to call at Colombo upon both the outward and homeward voyages, and to abolish, from February 1 next, the special parcel post rate at present levied.

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THE conference of Australian Postmasters-General held this year at Hobart has once more decided that the time is not opportune for introducing Imperial Penny Postage.

### The Telephone Agreement.

WHATEVER may be thought of the allegations of the opponents of the National Telephone Company as to its watered shares, its voracity in absorbing other companies, and its virtual monopoly of local telephone business, the debate in the House on the 1st March made it clear that there was no honourable retreat from the agreement which had been entered into between the Post Office and the Company, even though it had not yet been formally signed. There also seemed to be an undercurrent of feeling that even if, as was alleged by one party, the agreement confirmed the monopoly of the Company, it was better that the monopoly should be confirmed than that the long continued uncertainty which so hampered the extension of trunk-line communication should continue. Besides, as the Postmaster-General pointed out, a telephone system must be somewhat of a monopoly in any given locality, for it would evidently be

useless to have a number of separate exchanges in any given town ; while inasmuch as the telephone can never be of universal use, like gas or water, it is hardly a commodity which could well be supplied by municipalities. Eventually the opposition to the agreement was dropped on condition that a select committee should be appointed to consider—

“Whether the provision now made for the telephone service in local areas is adequate, and whether it is expedient to supplement or improve that provision by the granting of licences to local authorities or otherwise.”

### The Last of Patronage.

OUR readers will recollect that a year ago we ventured on some observations regarding the claim put forward by County Councils to succeed to the patronage of small sub-postmasterhips which had so long been in the gift of local political bodies through the medium of the patronage secretary of the Treasury. The absurdity of the system was shown by the fact that it was some years ago abandoned as unworkable in Ireland though still retained in Great Britain.

On the 19th February, Mr. Luttrell brought forward a motion declaring it expedient that this patronage should be placed in the hands of local representative bodies. In the debate which ensued, Sir C. Cameron reminded the House that as long ago as 1878 he had brought this subject forward, and he thought that the proper course would be to place the nomination in the hands of the Postmaster-General. Mr. Morley, however, looked with apprehension to such an addition to his duties and approved of Mr. Luttrell's motion. Mr. Jackson (who was Secretary to the Treasury in the last administration) was strongly of opinion that those who paid should also appoint, and Mr. Chamberlain supported that view, which in the end commended itself to the House, and is now being carried into practice.

Thus perishes the last remnant of political patronage so far as our Department is concerned, and it now only remains for Members one and all to carry out the suggestion of Sir D. Macfarlane, that they should not only not nominate but should even abstain from recommending candidates.

### Coast Communications.

THE undermentioned works have been carried out in connection with the Coast Communication Scheme, in addition to those of which notice has been given in previous issues of this Magazine.

Telephonic communication between the Coast Guard Stations at Sandsend, Whitby, Hawsker, and Robin Hood's Bay.

Between the Coast Guard Stations at Hornsea, Cowden, and Aldborough.

Between Dunwich Post Office and Coast Guard Station, and Southwold Post Office and Coast Guard Station.

The Dartmouth Coast Guard Station has now been placed in telephonic communication with the Torcross, Hallsands, Prawle, and Rickham Coast Guard Stations.

The Porthleven and Cadgwith telephone circuits have been extended to the new look-out house at the Lizard.

Telephonic communication between Rhoscolyn and Holyhead Post Offices.

Between the Lifeboat Coxswain's house at Moelfre, Point Lynas Signal Station, Amlwch Coast Guard Station, the Lifeboat Coxswain's house at Bull Bay and the Cemmaes Coast Guard Station.

Lossiemouth Coast Guard Station can now communicate by telephone with Lossiemouth Post Office.

The Banff and Gardenstown circuit has been extended to Pennan, and has been made a telephone, instead of telegraph, circuit.

Call-bells have been fixed in the Sumburgh, Lerwick, Castle Douglas, and Kirkcudbright Post Offices.

Telephonic communication between Queensborough Coast Guard Station and Drogheda Post Office [by extension of Clogher Head-Drogheda (Admiralty) wire]. A call-bell has been fixed at Drogheda on the Laytown circuit.

Telephonic communication between the Coast Guard Stations at Tyrella, Dundrum, and Newcastle.

Between Poor Head Coast Guard Station and Roches Point Post Office and extension to Roches Point Signal Tower.

Between the Coast Guard Stations at Robert's Cove, Myrtleville, and Crosshaven.

Between the Coast Guard Station and Lloyd's Signal Station at Old Head of Kinsale.

Extension of Loop Head and Carrigaholt (Admiralty) wire to Kilcredane Coast Guard Station.

The following Lighthouses, &c., mentioned in the second report of the Royal Commission on Electrical Communication with Lighthouses, &c., have now been placed in telephonic communication with the places given below :—

Falmouth Harbour	with	Portscatho Coast Guard Station.
Souter Point	„	Whitburn Post Office.
Montrose (Scurdy Ness)	„	Usan Coast Guard Station.
Tarbet Ness	„	Portmahomack Post Office.
Sumburgh Head	„	Sumburgh Post Office.
Cape Wrath	„	Durness Post Office.
Ru Stoer	„	Stoer Post Office.
St. Bees	„	St. Bees Post Office.
South Stack	„	Holyhead Coast Guard Station.
Galley Head	„	Clonakilty Post Office.
Loop Head	}	Carrigaholt Post Office.
Kilcradan Point		

Telephonic communication has been established between the Hasborough Light Vessel and Bacton Coast Guard Station, and also between the Shipwash Light Vessel and Aldeburgh Coast Guard Station.

### Cable Rates.

WE are glad to learn that the negotiations which have so long been on foot between this Department (representing the Imperial Government), the various South African Governments, and the Eastern Telegraph Company have now been completed. Henceforward, the rate to Cape Town and Durban will be reduced from 8s. 11d. to 5s. per word, while press messages will pass at 1s. 6d. The rates to places in the interior will be higher, but the highest will not exceed 5s. 5d. for ordinary and 1s. 7½d. for press.

We must congratulate Mr. Lamb, Mr. French, and the other negotiators on this satisfactory result.

### Surveyors in Council.

FROM time to time, as occasion requires, it has been the practice to call together the Surveyors for the purpose of consultation; and The Hall, at Bushey, has long been a favourite place for such meetings, as it is far enough from London to prevent distraction, and not too far to hinder speedy communication. Moreover, the amenities of the place render a stay there very enjoyable, and if lawn tennis is out of season there is always whist to fall back on. Meetings of this kind have been known to last for weeks in the good old times, but they manage things differently now. On this occasion the members of the "Bench" (Who was it who once spoke of the "*Bench* of Surveyors?") went down on the day following the Telegraph dinner (Tuesday, the 29th January), and by the Saturday following, when the meeting broke up, they had got through a mass of work which must have astonished the oldest inhabitant. And what made the difference? Was it the presence of the Secretary? It may have been, for what does Horace say?—

"Vis consili experts mole ruit suâ;  
Vim temperatam Di quoque provehant  
In majus."

Be that as it may, they certainly piled Pelion on dark Olympus that evening, when, after working hard all day they met again at nine and sat until the small hours of the morning.

We have much pleasure in presenting our readers with a photograph of the assembled Surveyors, together with Mr. Lewin Hill, Mr. Creswell, Mr. Badcock, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Warren (who though long retired from the service still takes an interest in Post Official matters), and Messrs. Bruce and Carey, who acted as secretaries. Mr. Walpole, unfortunately, was absent when the photograph was taken.



### Mail trains snowed up.

ON the morning of Sunday, the 10th February, Ireland was visited by such a snowstorm as it does not see more than two or three times in a century. The train conveying mails for America left Dublin early that morning on its way to Queenstown. Meanwhile the snow was piling itself upon the line, and especially on the "down" line, the wind being south-westerly. Somewhere between Limerick Junction and Mallow the train ran into a drift which embedded the engine up to the funnel and there it remained, with a brief interval, until about 3.0 p.m. the next day. In the interval to which we refer the track behind the train was cleared, and the train backed out and took a fresh start. But it started only to be once more imbedded in the drift. What the sorting clerks in the sorting carriages did with themselves during the hours of the night, in a train literally caked all over with snow and ice, we have not heard, and we shall be glad to have the personal narratives of any of the sufferers. Meanwhile the ordinary up and down night mail trains started on Sunday night from Cork and Dublin respectively at their usual hours, regardless of the snowed-up leviathan in their path. Naturally they came to a stop on reaching him, one on the north side and the other on the south. The sorting clerks in these trains must also have had a trying time. A sorting carriage, fitted with mail apparatus, is not the warmest place in a snowstorm. On the following day these two trains, finding they could get no further, wisely made their way back to Dublin and Cork respectively. Ultimately the line was cleared (as we have already mentioned) about 3.0 p.m. on the Monday, and the mails were safely deposited on board the "Servia" in Queenstown Harbour.

### Bechuanaland Telegraphs.

IN January, 1885, owing to certain troublesome natives, it was deemed necessary to send an expeditionary force under the command of Sir Charles Warren to restore order in Bechuanaland, and among the various equipment of this force the field telegraph was a most useful factor. The Cape colonial system in this direction then terminated at West Barkly, from whence the field line was rapidly extended through Taungs and Vryburgh to Mafeking and finally taken on through Kanye to Molepolole. The line was constructed by Lieutenants Anstruther and Heath under the directorship of Major Jelf, R.E. Many difficulties had of course to be contended with, such as clearing bush for the track, guarding the camps and working parties, etc., and in a warm climate the average of eight miles per diem is a very fair record. It was all done very systematically, the route was surveyed and pegged off, this was followed by a mule waggon running out wire and distributing poles, followed by a party who were well trained in pole planting, straining, staying, etc. The operators as well as the construction party were chiefly composed of men from the Telegraph Battalion, R.E., but

owing to the large number of stations taken in circuit and the number of men engaged on maintenance, it was found necessary to engage both telegraphists and linemen from the irregular corps, *i.e.*, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mounted Infantry and 4th regiment Pioneer, these men were attached to the R.E. *pro tem.*, and proved a very serviceable addition. The linemen found the South African "trek ox" a great destroyer of man's handiwork. This animal seemed to cherish a wonderful "love at first sight" for telegraph poles, no matter what pole or what ox, there seemed to be an affinity. After long journeys with heavily laden transport waggons, or whilst taking a concession to put on a little weight, the wily ox hied him off to rub his hide against a pole. To checkmate him, huge thorn bushes were bound to the poles. Then came the white ant and considerably demolished the underground portion of the somewhat frail wooden poles, added to this, terrific thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence and besides melting the brass tops off the vulcanite insulators, would fuse the wire and render as much as a fifty yard span completely useless. The operators' work was of course very interesting.

[We have to thank Mr. H. H. Flowers, Postmaster of Mafeking, for the above instalment of an article. We shall be glad to receive the remainder as soon as possible.]

### The "Telegraph Chronicle" and Facts.

ON the 18th January the Bristol correspondent of the *Telegraph Chronicle*—a paper with exceptional means of verifying official news—wrote as follows:—"We understand that during the past two years there has been a saving of about £760 in the Telegraph department at this office, and apparently as an encouragement to go on in this direction the Chief Superintendent has been recommended to receive a hundred guineas as a bonus."

*For this story of a recommended bonus there is no foundation whatever*, but it is a valuable "campaign document," and the utmost possible use is being made of it.

*Truth*, on the 31st January, repeated it, with remarks on "Sweating"; and on the following day the *East Anglian Daily Times* took it up as an incident "unearthed by *Truth*," and observed that the bonus was "for services which we should call by an ugly name if they were rendered by the foreman of a private workshop."

On the 1st March the *Telegraph Chronicle* tendered "warm thanks" to these two papers, among others, and in its own editorial, improved the story by saying that the Postmaster-General "has rewarded the Postmaster of Bristol and others who have given proof of exceptional skill in the skinning of flints."

We appeal most earnestly to the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association to mark their sense of the conduct of the inventor of this story, and of those who retailed it without caring to enquire whether it was true or not. We trust that they will in future conduct their agitation without the use of weapons which dishonour the service and bring discredit upon us all.

### Mr. Anthony Todd.

THE position of "Secretary to the Postmaster-General," which afterwards became "Secretary to the General Post Office," was created by the Treasury in 1694. At first the position was not one of great importance, corresponding very nearly to that of a private secretary in the present day. The holder was selected by the Postmasters-General from among the clerks, and when a new ministry came in he was liable to be superseded by someone else.

Anthony Todd was the first who made the position a permanent and important one. He was appointed Secretary in 1762, in the room of Henry Potts, Comptroller in the Inland Office of the Post Office, who in turn superseded Todd in 1765. For some years the two men held the office alternately,\* until the rivalry ended by the death of Potts in 1768, and henceforward Todd reigned alone. As readers of Mr. Joyce's book will remember, the administration of the Post Office during Todd's tenure of office came more than once under the criticism of Parliament, and the emoluments received by him were such as would now be considered to be outrageously large. No precise figures are available, but what with the salary (which was small), the official residence (with coal, candles, tinware, &c.) the commission of  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  on all disbursements for packet services, and various miscellaneous pickings, he made probably as much as £5000 a year.

He was a *bon vivant*, and his "old hock in his old parlour" was known to all Lombard Street. He dearly loved a lord, and so it was fortunate for him that in his time the two Postmasters-General were almost invariably members of what is now called the "second chamber." His feelings must have been very much gratified when his daughter gave practical effect to the paternal predilections by marrying a peer; but on the other hand the quarrel into which he was forced with Lord Tankerville (an account of which will be found at page 27, Vol. II., of this magazine) must have been a great blow to him, though no doubt he was consoled by the thought that, if he was obliged to quarrel with one lord who was too cantankerous to count for anything in public affairs, he was, at any rate, defending another lord whose cool head and convenient blindness to abuses gave promise of long continued usefulness, if not to the public at any rate to himself.

The portrait which we give is from an engraving by J. Jones, after a painting by G. Romney. The particular copy from which our picture is taken was given by Mr. H. de B. Reed (of the Stock Exchange Telegraph Office) to Mr. Joyce, and accepted by him on behalf of the Department. When the new General Post Office North is opened it is hoped that a room will be set apart as a museum, in which this portrait, with other objects of Post Office interest, can be deposited.

\* The following are the dates of appointment of Todd and Potts:—

Henry Potts—March, 1760 to December, 1762. Anthony Todd—December, 1762 to July, 1765. Henry Potts (again)—July, 1765 to January, 1768. Anthony Todd (again)—January, 1768 to June, 1798.

## The Telegraph and the County Councillor.

THANKS to Mr. Ritchie's invention, the quietest of quiet neighbourhoods where no contested election had ever previously been held must now work itself into a fever heat every three years in order that Smith rather than Jones may write "C.C." after his name, and yet it must often be very difficult to know what there is to fight about. It would hardly do nowadays for one candidate to call himself the "*Gentlemanly* Candidate," nor could the contest well turn, like an old election of beadles, on the number of small children each combatant might happen to possess, while the parish pump has long been abolished in favour of the water company. Still some *casus belli* must be found, and in at least one constituency the event turned almost exclusively on a telegraph extension. It had been settled that a line of telegraph should be erected to a certain village, but when the time came for making the line, serious differences arose as to the route by which it should be taken. It so happened that each of the candidates had had his say in this matter and the result of the difference had been to delay the erection of the line. Accordingly, when the election came on soon after, each found plausible ground for accusing the other of obstructing improvement and delaying the march of civilization. Quite a crop of broadsides appeared in prose and verse, one of which attracts special notice from its alliterative title, "A Terrible Telegraph Tale." We cannot pretend to say what truth, if any, was to be found at the bottom of this particular well of vituperation, but the result was that the outgoing councillor was ousted from his seat, and the probability seems to be that in that neighbourhood, at least, there will be for some time to come but little difficulty when wayleaves are asked for.

## The Post Office under Charles II.

NOTES FROM THE *LONDON GAZETTE*.

THE *London Gazette* in its early days was hardly more readable than it is now; but time has lent an interest to some of the official notices and other advertisements. In turning over a file of the earlier volumes I came, among other things, upon various allusions to the Post Office which may be worth reprinting in *St.-Martin's-le-Grand*, though some at least of them have no doubt been utilised by Mr. Joyce and other writers upon the Post Office.

The *London Gazette* came into existence, under the title of the *Oxford Gazette*, in 1665, when the Court had moved to Oxford to avoid the Great Plague of London. The great Fire that followed was in September, 1666; and one of the first references to the Post Office is the announcement, in the number for Sep. 17 to 20, that the "General Letter Office is now held in Bishopsgate Street, at Sir Samuel Bernardiston's house." A year later (*Gazette*, Sep. 2 to 5, 1667) the following notice appeared:—

"Whereas divers letters miscarry by not giving full directions,

whence blame is causelessly put upon the Letter Office ; All persons are desired hereafter to be more punctual in mentioning the shire, there being several towns in England of the like name ; and also the street and place adjacent of note, if there be not a sign."

In October the public were informed that " Letters for Liverpool, Ormskirk, Prescot, Wiggon and Leagh will be conveyed through every week by horse each way, instead of by foot, twice a week."

In 1668 (*Gazette*, June 4 to 8) packets of sixty tons, for mails and passengers, were established between Harwich and Helvoelstuys, and a new horse post, twice a week, was commenced between Exeter and Launceston (*Gazette*, Oct. 12 to 15). In the number for Dec. 14 to 17, 1668, it was announced, for the ease and benefit of the people, that the Postmaster-General had contracted with all the deputy-postmasters to carry all letters directed to anyone within 10 miles from their stage-towns, paying 2d. a time besides the London post, and to bring back answers to the same stage gratis.

In July, 1669, a service of letters, twice a week, from Oxford to Bristol and Gloucester, was established, and in the following month there was this advertisement (*Gazette*, Aug. 5 to 9) :—

" Lately published, a Table of the Correspondence settled by the Postmaster-General between the most considerable market towns and the respective post stages in England and Wales, for conveyance of letters in post, to supply the pretended convenience by common carriers."

In 1672 it was announced (*Gazette*, April 29 to May 2) that in future the post between London and Harwich and London and Portsmouth would be despatched on every day except Sunday. Special arrangements were made even then for the needs of fashionable watering-places, for in the *Gazette* for June 29 to July 3, 1676, there was a notice that the post would be every day (Sundays excepted) from London to Tunbridge, " so that letters sent to the General Post Office overnight will be delivered there next morning : And the like despatch with their returns hither ; this course will be continued during the season at the Wells."

The General Post Office was removed in March, 1678, from Bishopsgate Street to Lombard Street, to Sir Robert Viner's house (*Gazette*, March 18 to 21, 1677-8). Four years later it was announced (*Gazette*, Nov. 23 to 27, 1682) that in view of the decision against Docwra, an official penny post would be established ; and other notices of this subject are to be found in subsequent numbers.

A study of later volumes of the *Gazette* would bring to light many curious details of postal history, besides advertisements of new books, notices of missing ladies or pet dogs, of lotteries, of touching for the king's evil, and other matters ; but the notices which are other than purely formal became less frequent when more popular newspapers came into existence early in the eighteenth century.

GEORGE A. AITKEN.

## An Industrious Scot.

ROBERT BLACK, rural postman from Whithorn, N.B., to Glasserton, is an instance of exceptional industry which, it is thought, merits a passing notice in the magazine.

During the past 18 months Black, who is 59 years of age, has built for himself a very comfortable cottage,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  storeys high, with 7 apartments, also stable, offices, and wall round garden. He quarried and dressed the stones, carted them half-a-mile, built, slated, and plastered the house, sunk a well and put in a pump, his only assistant being a son, a youth about 16 years of age.

## An Awkward Position.

IN his recently-published *Book of Recollections* Mr. Cordy Jeaffreson tells of an incident in the life of a civil servant which must have caused him an immense amount of trouble through many years of official life. It seems that some time in the thirties Sir Francis Palgrave, the historian, conceiving that he had been injured by a clerk at the Record Office named Duffus Hardy, came to the Tower, where the office then was, and in the course of an altercation with Hardy called him a liar. Hardy at once sprang up from his chair and gave Palgrave a blow in the left eye which knocked him down. When Palgrave got up he advanced in a fighting attitude and again called Hardy a liar. Thereupon Hardy in a trice hit him a sharp blow in the right eye and again knocked him down. Palgrave, it was thought, would challenge Hardy according to the custom of the time, but instead of doing so he complained to Henry Petrie, the Chief of the Office. "Admitting that Hardy's conduct had been irregular, and even reprehensible from the official point of view, Petrie was of opinion that having regard to the provocation, and all the circumstances of the case, he would not be justified in expressing strong disapproval of the young man's impetuosity and pugilistic promptitude. Condoling with the complainant on his embarrassing and painful and rather comical position, Keeper Petrie advised him to screen his eyes with a pair of green spectacles, and to determine his discord with Hardy by making him an apology." The affair caused much amusement, and "Ingoldsby" wrote some spirited verses on it.

With concern on his face,  
 Petrie lists to his case,  
 The deed "very far from correct" he calls,  
 And adds, "My good friend,  
 Let me first recommend  
 You to go and buy a pair of green spectacles."

\* \* \* \*

"An apology? ay  
 That's by far the best way,  
 Ere some wag gets the tale and makes fun of it,  
 So if he looks blue  
 And won't make one to *you*,  
 Why—make one to him and have done with it."

But no apology was given on either side, and a few years later (1838) Palgrave was appointed Deputy-Keeper of the Records. Henceforward, during a period of 22 years, he ruled over Hardy and the Record Office. It was not in Hardy's power to make the first advances. He could not with propriety tell the Deputy-Keeper that he forgave him for having in former times provoked him to blacken his eyes. On first coming into the presence of his new chief Hardy bowed, but the politeness was not returned, and from that time for the whole period of Palgrave's administration the intercourse between him and his principal assistant was never carried beyond what stern necessity required. Palgrave died in 1861, and Hardy then obtained the Deputy-Keepership.

### Initiating a Messenger.

"I WANT a bucket of steam for the Western Union Telegraph Company," timidly remarked messenger boy No. 13, as he stuck his head in the door of *The Courant* editorial rooms last night.

"You want what?"

"A bucket of steam, sir."

"Are you sure that's what you want?"

"That's what they told me to get."

It was a strange sort of request, and the boy was sent down to the business office. There he was told to go back to the Western Union office and get the bucket. He has not yet returned.

*Hartford Courant (U.S.A.).*

### He had a receipt.

A SHORT time ago a drover entered the General Post Office of the county town of Essex for the purpose of sending a telegram to his assistant, who was attending a market some ten miles off, asking him to meet him at a certain point on the road to relieve him of his herd. After writing the message he handed it to the clerk, who examined it, counted the words, and then handed it back in the usual way for the stamps to be affixed. This the drover did and then, as the clerk was attending to other customers, carefully folded it up and put it in his waistcoat pocket and went his way.

The following market day he again appeared at the office and in the most consequential manner desired to see the Postmaster. The clerk informed him that he was not in just then and asked if he could do anything for him. After some little hesitation the applicant said that perhaps he would do and then said he had a "complaint to make." "Well!" said the clerk, "What's the matter?" "The matter's just this," said the man, "the other day, I sends a telegram from this 'ere office to my mate at B——, ten mile away, telling him to meet me half way on the road to help me home with my drove, well, Sir, my complaint is that he never got that 'ere telegram and so

"I want my money back." "Well," said the clerk, "I am afraid I can't give you your money back now, but I can give you a form of inquiry to fill up, and then, if it is as you say, the money will be returned to you in due course." "Oh! that's all very well," said the man, "but I want my money back *now*, and what I say is all fair and square, for I kept that 'ere receipt as you give me, stamped and all," and so saying he drew from his pocket the identical telegram of which he was making complaint as to its non-delivery (which of course had never been tendered for transmission at all). The clerk could scarcely refrain from a good hearty laugh, and after some little difficulty succeeded in enlightening the poor man as to the common mode of telegraphing, and as the stamps were not defaced he good-naturedly returned him his money.

### An "Unregistered" Telegraphic Address.

A TELEGRAM which has been handed in at a Railway Telegraph Office was recently received at a provincial town, bearing the following remarkable address, viz.,

"Case 1 Hotel,  
B——y."

Considering the contents simply implied that the sender (whose name was not stated) would not arrive home until the following day it is creditable to the officials to think that the telegram was delivered *in ordinary time* to "Kay Swan Hotel, B——y," where it was found to be correct.

### The Hawarden Horace.

ONE of the sprightliest books recently issued is the volume of parodies on Horace bearing the above title and written by the clever author of that famous song "Father O'Flynn." Here are a couple of verses from an ode *Ad Milesium Gloriosum*.

'Twould please me greatly, dear Tay Pay,  
If from exaggeration's sway  
You could be weaned.  
I'm not, although you'd have it so,  
A perfect seraph, nor is Joe  
A perfect fiend.

Though our majorities be small,  
And candid friends predict our fall,  
Tay Pay, sit tight;  
Refraining when we gaily ride  
Upon the fair and flowing tide  
From blatherskite.



And this is how, in an ode addressed *Ad Cæcilium Africanum* (Mr. Rhodes), the author parodies the well-known lines beginning *Contracto melius parva cupidine* :—

Take it from me, no philosophic tyro,  
 Happier the man who limits his desires,  
 Than he who prances from Cape Town to Cairo,  
 Or spans the wastes of Africa with wires.  
 Excessive wants on earth are never sated,  
 Nor mines nor millions avarice can assuage ;  
 Blest he, from income-tax emancipated,  
 Who is content to earn a living wage.

We had almost forgotten to add that these parodies are supposed to be written by a retired statesman of surpassing eminence. *Horresco referens*.

### Journalists and History.

THOSE who believe in the infallibility of journalists must receive a rude shock sometimes if they look into things. Even the *Times* is not always accurate. The other day there appeared in that journal an announcement that a new tombstone to Catherine of Arragon had been erected in Peterborough Cathedral, and that the inscription gave as the date of her death "the 8th January, 1535-6." Feeling bound to make some comment on a date which evidently puzzled his erudite mind, the writer of the paragraph went on to say—"Both the years 1535 and 1536 are given, as there has always been some doubt as to the exact year." Now if the poor fellow had thought a little before penning that egregious remark it might have struck him that it was odd that the place and exact day should be known, while the exact year was hidden in the mists of three centuries, but then of course he had no time to think only to write. Still it might be expected that writers in the *Times* should be aware of the ordinary usage in regard to dates earlier than 1752 which fell between the 1st January and the 25th March, the date on which the civil year began.

By the by, the *Post* of the 16th March was rather funny when it announced that "Mr. Morley had given his *imprimis* to this official announcement." Really people should be more careful in giving their *imprimatur* to words with which they are not familiar.

### An Unfortunate Infatuation.

IN the first month of the current year quite a commotion was caused in a certain Wiltshire town by a young woman, over her infatuation for a Post Office clerk. On coming to the town many years gone by, the latter lodged at the house of the young woman's widowed mother, and his good looks, modesty, and sterling worth

evidently so charmed her that she secretly cherished an abnormal affection for him. This feeling, however, was bottled up until it could no longer be endured and the lady presented herself at the young man's house one night in December last and told his parents "she intended getting married, and as she could not get married without a man she had decided to have their son for a husband." The son "smelt a rat" and astutely kept in the background, and the parents ultimately prevailed upon the young woman to go home by promising her that their son should communicate his decision to her by post. On reaching her home about midnight she was so overjoyed that she spent the night roaming about the house, playing the piano, smashing the crockeryware and other sundries that were handy, waking up her next door neighbours and defying them to come near her, until at last the police were called in and finally she was taken to a neighbouring asylum as a lunatic, where she is now confined. The unsuspecting Post Office clerk in question is an estimable fellow, of a retiring disposition and decided bachelor instincts, and had never given the poor young woman the least encouragement. In fact her final attentions to him seemed to have the surprising effects of a bomb-shell explosion upon him and his friends. Verily when we least suspect it we are exerting an influence upon our fellow creatures.

F. TAYLOR.

### A Spanish Item.

IN the January number of *The Argosy* there is a paper entitled "The Romance of Spain," by Mr. Charles W. Wood, F.R.G.S., in which that gentleman gives a description of a search for a post office in Fontarabia. He tells of finding an open shop door with a woman at the counter inside, and then goes on to state: "On asking for the post office she professed astonishment. Such a thing did not exist. She sold stamps, and there was a letter box across the road, and that was all they had in the way of *correos*. But in spite of its deadly-liveliness, Fontarabia has some 3,000 inhabitants, and we felt that a post office of some sort there must be. The 3,000 inhabitants, however long-suffering, could not all march off to Irun, a distance of four miles, every time they wanted to register a letter or take out an order. Nevertheless, our informant kept to her text. 'I assure you it is as I say,' she declared. 'If you search for a week you will find nothing but a letter box; and here,' she added, producing a portfolio, 'are stamps and post cards. I supply the whole town; and the quantity I sell does not add much to my fortune.'" Mr. Wood continues: "We were so occupied in working out this problem that we left our umbrella on the counter."

There are not a few who are rather fond of pronouncing our rural districts to be very badly served in the matter of postal accommodation. I wonder what they would find to say about such a state of things as referred to by Mr. Wood. Words would fail them, and I'm afraid they would lose more than an umbrella.

J. H. SHARMAN.



**Dr. J. M. Ennis.**

**S**AVINGS Bank men have reason to be proud of their sometime colleague, John Matthew Ennis. He left the service in 1891, and those of us who knew him well had but little doubt that subsequent events would more than justify the step he then took. Candidly, however, we did not anticipate quite such rapid success. Mr. Ennis's career, since he left the Bank, has been a brilliant one; he is now a full fledged doctor of music, having passed the four necessary examinations, viz., Inter. B. Mus., B. Mus., Inter. D. Mus., and D. Mus., in as many consecutive years. This, as far as the London University is concerned, constitutes a record.

On the 23rd of February last, the Lecture Theatre of the University was well filled with an interested audience, which included a number of well known musicians, to hear the performance of the "Exercise," written by Mr. Ennis for his final degree. The composer chose Psalm xlv., "God is our Hope and Strength," for the libretto of his work, laying it out for contralto solo, chorus, and orchestra, and of course treating it in accordance with the prescribed conditions; it being particularly necessary that it should contain real eight-part harmony and good eight-part fugal counterpoint. The Overture is an excellent example of musicianship, revealing the composer in a most favourable light, and the fact that the more formal portions of the work (the double choruses and the double fugue of the "Gloria Patri") are accepted as satisfactory by Dr. Hubert Parry and Professor Bridge, the Examiners, is ample evidence that they are as strictly correct as they are certainly effective. • There is no need to criticise the exercise in

detail. Let it suffice to say that it gives much promise and was received with much favour. A goodly contingent of Post Office men were present on the occasion, and some of the Doctor's old colleagues assisted in the chorus and orchestra. The press spoke favourably of the work, although several of the papers, with that critical insight into musical matters which so distinguishes them, professed to find it Mendelssohnian in style. This was mere nonsense. The choral writing reveals the composer as a student of Handel; the orchestration as unmistakably indicates the influence of Wagner and Berlioz.

We congratulate Dr. Ennis on his success. He is already known as a good organist, and a brilliant pianist. If we are not very much mistaken he will be heard of again as a composer.

### A Good Delivery.

AT this place, *Berice and Deadman's*, as in pre-board-school days it appeared on the address of a letter, low temperatures seem to have made a "record" for England, — 8°, or 40° of frost, having been reported by several reliable observers, and I have heard of — 11° on the banks of a certain mere in the neighbourhood. The latter may be apocryphal, but the following remarkable result of the intense cold can be vouched for:—

A rural postman starting from the Head Office in this ancient borough which, though always on the Lark (river), is ever respectable, availed himself of the privilege of carrying private parcels of medicine, and took out a bottle of such liquid for delivery on his "beat." On arriving at the addressee's house he was horrified to find the bottle broken and the contents apparently as irretrievably gone as the letters from a certain roadside wall box which were eaten by geese while the collecting mail cart driver pursued his runaway horse. But behold, the precious concoction was all there, only solidified! So, in the language of the Bag Report (or 66 Form), the contents were "intact" and "duly delivered," minus the "wrapper."

Bury St. Edmund's.

F. H. KNIGHT.

### Many Moods and Many Measures.

Βωκολιασδόμεσθα.—*Theocritus*.

ABOUT two thousand years ago a poet living in Sicily sat down in front of a slab of wax (something like a schoolboy's slate) and inscribed upon it, with a sharp-pointed bronze stylus, a charming poem. It describes a country walk taken by a company of shepherds on a sunny day. The singing of their hobnails on the pebbles indicates the lightness of their hearts. The question arising, what shall they do to beguile their journey, one of them (whose name we could tell, but no matter) answers with the long word which appears

at the head of this note. It means, "let us sing songs about our life work," and delightfully cheerful were the songs they forthwith proceeded to sing.

Mr. T. K. Christie, head stamper in the Glasgow sorting office, when he sat down to write *Many Moods and Many Measures* (a copy of which, through the courtesy of a correspondent, now lies before us) was perhaps not aware that the course he adopted was sanctioned by so venerable a precedent. Still, whether knowingly or otherwise, his action was in accord with the wisdom of the ancients. He adopted the form of recreation which undoubtedly affords more pleasure than any other. To quote his own words, "he experienced much gratification, even when his songs were saddest, from the effort put forth to give expression in verse to some of the many experiences of human life."

Why it is that the writing of poetry should give so much pleasure to the writer we will not stop to enquire. But the fact itself is unquestionable, and from this fact a very curious consequence follows. For when the poet has sketched out a stanza, creditable but imperfect, and susceptible of infinite further improvements and polishings, he straightway proceeds to fall in love with it. His love for it blinds his eyes to its defects, and partially paralyses his mind, so that he becomes unwilling, if not altogether unable, to alter, improve, and perfect it. He feels towards it as a mother towards her firstborn and the idea of change is abhorrent to him. The ultimate outcome of this state of affairs is that poetry becomes (in a sense) its own deadly enemy; for the pleasure which it gives to its maker is the chief impediment to its own perfection.

How we sermonize when we get on the subject of poetry in the Letter Bag! Moreover, we are wandering from our point, which is the consideration of Mr. Christie's book. If anyone infers, from this lengthy preamble, that we are going to find fault with it, they are greatly mistaken. Nor, on the other hand, shall we praise it indiscriminately, as being more than it professes to be. One thing is certain, that its perusal has given us much pleasure, and we feel sure that those of our readers who come across it will have a like experience. Of course we turned first to the verses relating to the Post Office, and of these we prefer the one entitled "A Ghost Story." It begins:—

"The Night Side of Nature," by Mrs. C. Crowe;  
 "A Strange Story," by Lytton, and strange ones by Poe,  
 Had been my chief study for hours every night,  
 Till my nerves were so weak, and my head turned so light  
 That the slightest occurrence—

but we must not let the pen of the copyist overleap the sense of proportion of the reviewer.

Turning to the more general poems we find much to please us, and plenty of evidence that Mr. Christie has a keen perception of

metrical possibilities. There is, for example, a song supposed to be sung by a girl lying in the Hospital for Incurables, which begins :—

Sing to me, mother, O sing to me  
Songs I was wont to hear  
When a babe I lay at your breast, for they bring to me  
Memories sweet that still cluster and cling to me  
Through each succeeding year.

### Civil Service Cycling Club Dinner.

THE annual dinner of the Civil Service Cycling Club was held on Thursday, the 7th February, at the Holborn Restaurant, Mr. W. W. Rishworth being in the chair. The toasts comprised "The Queen," which was briefly given from the chair and most enthusiastically drunk. "The Club" was proposed by Mr. C. W. Hartung in a neat speech, in which, referring to the small company present, he said that recently there had been a marked falling off in the attendances at nearly all dinners and other functions of cycling clubs, and that the Civil Service Cycling Club had not the advantage possessed by purely local clubs inasmuch as its members were scattered over the whole of London, and it was almost impossible to arrange a general meeting place. Mr. Warren (captain) responded and said that it had always been the aim to keep the club select and that rowdiness, he was glad to say, was never indulged in on the runs. He hoped that with the new blood which had been infused into the ranks of the club it would become a more powerful organization than ever it had been. In the absence of Mr. E. Bennett, "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. H. S. Thompson, and Mr. Bovay responded. "The Chairman" was proposed by Mr. T. W. Howard, who said that some time back, when the club was not in such a prosperous position as might be wished, Mr. Rishworth had, at an age when most men were fonder of sitting round the fire at home, undertaken the captaincy of the club, had bought a machine and recommenced riding, with the result that the club had taken a new lease of life. Mr. Rishworth, in replying, said he was pleased to notice that the outside public looked with greater favour on cyclists than they did 18 years ago. The music was exceptionally good. The excessively cold weather no doubt had the effect of making the attendance smaller than usual, but nevertheless a most enjoyable and successful evening was spent.

### Royal Visit to the Post Office.

ON Friday, the 8th February, the Post Office was honoured with a visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales, who were accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duchess of Fife, and the Princess Victoria of Wales. The royal party were

received by the Postmaster-General and the Secretary. After an inspection of curiosities connected with the Department in the Postmaster General's room, and the presentation of the Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries as well as the Solicitor and the Receiver and Accountant General, the Royal party visited the Foreign Gallery of the Central Telegraph Office, where they were received by Mr. Fischer and Mr. Preece. An effort was made to converse over the Paris telephone, but the line was so much interrupted by a storm in Paris that the result was not very successful. An inspection of the Provincial Gallery then followed, and their Royal Highnesses very heartily greeted Mr. Warmington, who was for long the telegraphist at Sandringham House. After a visit to the tube room the party crossed the roadway on foot to the Circulation Office, where they were received by Mr. Badcock. The making up of the Eastern Mail excited much interest. A complete inspection was made of each branch and the royal visitors departed about 7 p.m. after a stay of nearly two hours.

In a letter addressed to the Postmaster General, Sir Francis Knollys has since expressed, on behalf of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the pleasure their visit gave them and their appreciation of the efficiency of the organization of the Post Office.

### A Manxman in Man.

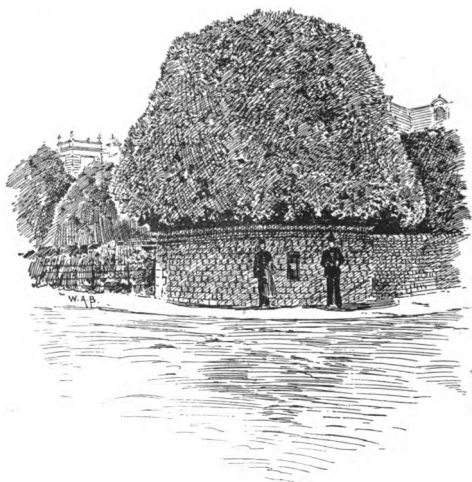
THE relations of the tall though small island in the Irish sea with the post office have recently been rendered somewhat close by the succession of its late governor to the secretaryship of our Department, and we are glad to note that in Mr. W. H. Gill (of the Secretary's Office) we have a Manxman who is proud of his birthplace, and who is anxious to elucidate the past of its art as Mr. Walpole has elucidated the past of its political and social history.

Whatever may be thought of the political history of Celtic races, they have at any rate had a literary and artistic record of surpassing interest, and if in this respect Man cannot compete with Ireland or even Wales, nevertheless the history of art in the island has a special interest of its own; for Man was brought far more under Norse influence than either Ireland or Wales, and thus the sculptured stones of the island, as well as the other remains of ancient art, exhibit characteristics not to be found in neighbouring lands. Mr. Gill specially notices that all old Manx music has an air of sadness about it—a characteristic which is, we believe, also found in all old Irish music.

Mr. Gill is trying to do for Man what Petrie did for Ireland nearly half a century ago. In 1857, when Petrie and O'Curry visited the Arran Islands, they were able to write down the words and music of many an old ballad which otherwise would have perished, and it is not surprising that when last summer Mr. Gill undertook a similar task in Man he was told by many people that he was too late. However

he was not discouraged, and by perseverance did succeed to a very fair extent, despite the depressing fact that in the present day Pete mostly carols songs of the music hall rather than the traditional ballads which may or may not have come originally from Trinacria on three legs.

If proof is wanted that Mr. Gill has already met with some success in his labour of love, it is sufficient to state that a short time ago he was enabled to give quite a little concert of Manx songs in the interludes of a lecture on Manx music which he gave to his neighbours at Sidcup. We shall look with interest to the results of Mr. Gill's next visit to his native island.



### Clifton Down Wall Letter-Box.

**P**ROBABLY few wall letter-boxes in the United Kingdom (writes Mr. R. C. Tombs) have nicer surroundings than the box in our picture, which is close to the official residence in Clifton of the Mayor of Bristol. It is in keeping that a letter-box should be placed under a box tree, and such a box tree as is rarely to be found, affording ample shelter to the residents in the fashionable district as they here consign their missives to the custody of the Postmaster-General.

### The Post Office Musical Society.

**W**E are sorry to hear that, financially speaking, this society is by no means as flourishing as its innumerable well-wishers could desire. A large choir means a large hall, and a large hall means heavy expenses. Now, unfortunately, the supporters of the



society have not hitherto succeeded in filling a large hall on concert nights, and thus each recent concert has resulted in a financial loss.

Mr. Sydney Beckley, however, is not deterred by monetary failures, and has taken the Queen's Hall for the 24th April, when he intends, with the assistance of Mrs. Helen Trust, Miss Marian McKenzie, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. Andrew Black, to produce Sir A. Sullivan's "Golden Legend." Although this concert will be given under the auspices of the society, yet Mr. Beckley is undertaking it at his own risk, and we hope that he will receive a generous support from all who are interested in the continued existence of the society. We need hardly remind the members that the society exists by, in, and through Mr. Sydney Beckley, that he originated it, and that without his assistance it could not continue to exist at all. Now is the opportunity for members to show their hearty appreciation of the services which Mr. Beckley has rendered to the society, and we hope they will not fail to come up to the occasion.

"Awake, arise, or be for ever fallen!"

### Another Old Guard.

WE regret to record the death, in his 82nd year, of William Charles Rhodes, who came of an old coaching stock, his grandfather being Tom Rhodes, who drove one of the York coaches to London.

Unfortunately, William was short in stature, which at first precluded his being officially appointed mail guard, but permission was accorded him to act as substitute in cases of emergency.

His official appointment, however, came through his action during the memorable Christmas snowstorm of 1836. Employed at the time as an assistant on the London and Louth Mail, he took the round from Boston to Louth, whilst his father worked from London to Boston. Between Spilsby and Louth the coach was snowed up.

A search party finally succeeded in digging out the coach. Rhodes' first anxiety was for the mails. Securing these about him, he rode a distance of 15 miles on horseback, through the storm, and delivered his letters intact.

The occurrence was brought to the notice of the then Postmaster-General, and Mr. Louis, the Surveyor, wrote to him as follows:—

"General Post Office,

21st January, 1837.

Sir,—Having represented to the Postmaster-General your very praiseworthy conduct during the late snowstorm, it gives me great satisfaction to send you a copy of his lordship's minute upon the subject. It is as follows:—

'This man deserves great credit, and if he wishes it I will put him on my list for an appointment as mail-guard at some future opportunity.

(Signed) LICHFIELD.'

You will be good enough to let me know whether you wish to take advantage of his lordship's kind offer.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
G. LOUIS."

Accepting the offer, he was sent down to Manchester to work on the railway, and was guard on the old Grand Junction from its opening day. Occasionally he worked the coaches out of Manchester, and from Warrington to Carlisle. He was afterwards placed on the Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth coach, and continued there for several years, until displaced by the opening of the Cambrian Railway; after which for 15 years he was on the Great Northern Railway from Grimsby to Peterborough.

Towards the close of his life he took up residence at Greenfields, Shrewsbury, prior to which he resided at Kinton, near Nesscliffe. He was twice married, and had a family of 30 children; during the last 18 years he was in receipt of a pension of £1 15s. per week.

### Answers to Correspondents.

FOR a real tribute to our importance and general value the following artless epistle from a Scotch postmaster, who two months before had refused to renew his subscription, will be hard to beat:—

"I find I cannot do without *St. Martin's*. Times were hard at the New Year and I fancied I could save 3s. in P.O. literature, as I believed my interest in the Department was limited to my daily duties and drawing the salary. But that is not enough. I wish to know something of the world outside this corner. P.O. 3s. enclosed, and I hope it is not too late for the January number."

It was not too late.

\* \* \*

R. J. J. (Manchester) writes as follows in regard to the article entitled "The Heavenly Twins" which appeared in our last number:—

"I am sorry that, although you admit that the writer of the article went too far in his 'mirth,' you do not even now see how offensive such an article must be to us. We do not admit that the correspondence to which the article referred was of a nature to raise a laugh, and we regard 'The Heavenly Twins' as an endeavour on the part of the writer firstly to fill space and secondly to glorify the metropolis at the expense of the provinces. While not averse to any proper criticism of our actions we entertain a very decided objection to a jeering notice such as the one to which I have called your attention, and shall certainly not support any periodical which is allowed by its conductors to print such spiteful paragraphs, whether they be against this or any other office."

[Our readers must now form their own opinions.—EDITOR.]

WE have to acknowledge the following additional subscriptions from abroad:—Pietermaritzburg (39); Wellington, N. Z. (8); Ottawa (4); Ottawa (Mr. G. F. Everett) (5); Brisbane (4); New Brunswick (2); Perak, Singapore, Quetta, Stockholm, and Christiania, 1 each.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

WE gather from the *Telegraph Age* that American telegraphists have a strong belief that ere long the United States Government will take the telegraphs into its own hands. The telegraphists are organizing so that when the time comes their interests may not be neglected.

\* \* \*

THE number of insulators on telegraph poles which are yearly broken in this country exceeds 60,000. There was a time when the destruction of a few insulators on a line of wire did not seriously affect its usefulness, but that is so no longer, and in the case of telephone wires especially the breakage of even one or two insulators may entirely stop an important line. Increased vigilance is therefore necessary to bring offenders to justice.

\* \* \*

A FEW copies of the card of invitation to the Telegraph dinner, and of the memorial card (printed in colours) which was issued on the occasion are still on hand, and a copy of each will be sent to anyone who will forward a postal order for 1s. to Mr. G. C. Hall, Secretary's Office, G.P.O.

\* \* \*

THE Post Office is a wonderful establishment—but not so wonderful as some of our American friends seem to think. Here is a letter which Mr. Braid, of Glasgow, received recently from Princetown, Georgia:—

Dear Sir,—Will you be so kind as to write to me and give me the name and address of one preacher of each religious denomination in Scotland? Also, please inform me if the English language is spoken in your country as my geography gives no information. Also, please give me a list of the school-books used there, and oblige, yours truly, ——. P.S.—Please request some editor to send me a number of some newspaper giving an account of the weather in Scotland from February 8 to the present time. It has been terribly cold here during that time, with much snow.

\* \* \*

WE are glad to welcome a poetical Post Office Overseer. It appears that in the course of a recent official enquiry he was asked if he could remember whether a certain day was wet or

fine. In reply he stated that the day in question was wretchedly wet, and furnished the following extract from his diary in proof of this :—

“ Rain, rain. eternal rain,  
With noisome fog in its horrid train ;  
Small wonder if my muse is sad,  
Can such ingredients make it glad ? ”

The Postmaster in reporting on the case, thinks there can be no doubt, after such incontrovertible evidence, that the day was hopelessly damp.

\* \* \*

NOT long ago a Postmaster in Ireland advertised for an assistant, and amongst other replies received the following :—  
“ I am at home. I am an orphan. My name is P——. I am a son of the late P—— O'B—— dead. I am willing to go at any time for train hire to there. Do not write, send a side car for me to go. I am an honest person, not a person of low habits, or unthankful for board and whatever hire you think well of. I am out of want, but I was in a bad way. Prepaid telegraph reply will do.”

\* \* \*

IN our number for April, 1893, we printed a poem suitable to All Fools' Day. Unfortunately we have none this year appropriate to the anniversary, so perhaps our readers will not think it out of place if we recall a few stanzas of the poem of two years ago :—

Mysteries of little import—are not these your constant pride ?  
Mark your papers “ confidential ” : hide your little knowledge, hide !

Each as good as each and better—these are democratic days—  
Grade by grade we hate each other, stint each other's meed of praise.

Flout your chiefs, ye young and brilliant ! older men are good to flout ;  
When ye choose your staff, ye elders ! choose them with the brains  
left out.

\* \* \* \*

Here the dulness of a dotard darkens counsel—very dark—  
There omniscience, feebly pompous, marks the youngest Treasury  
clerk.

# Promotions.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sec.'s Office ...	Hall, C. G. ...	P.C. ... ..	1866; 1st Cl. Cl., '81; P.C. Lr. Sec., '87
" ...	Roche, M. ...	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	S.B., '68; S.O., '70; 2nd Cl. Cl., '84
" ...	De Wardt, J. I. ...	2nd Cl. Cl. (Supply Est.)	Copyist S.O., '83; 3rd Cl. Cl., '94
S.B. ... ..	Miss E. C. Dean	P.C. ... ..	1881; 1st Cl. Cl., '90
" ... ..	" M. L. F. Steuart	" ... ..	1881; 1st Cl. Cl., '90
" ... ..	" A. M. Foster	" ... ..	1882; 1st Cl. Cl., '90
" ... ..	" F.S.M. West	" ... ..	1882; 1st Cl. Cl., '90
" ... ..	" E.A. Adams	" ... ..	1882; 1st Cl. Cl., '90
" ... ..	" K. A. Bumpus	" ... ..	1882; 1st Cl. Cl., '90
" ... ..	" E. A. Hoon	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	" F.S. Macrae	" ... ..	P.O.B.; R.A.G.O., '83; S.B., '84
" ... ..	" M. Anderson	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
" ... ..	" E. Livingstone	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
" ... ..	" C.G. Archer	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
" ... ..	" A. Gold	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
" ... ..	" R. C. Parsons	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
" ... ..	" M. Hayes..	" ... ..	P.O.B.; R.A.G.O., '84; S.B., '85
E. in C.O. ...	Hughes, T. J. ...	1st Cl. En. ... ..	U.K.T.Co., '61; G.P.O., '70
" ...	Partridge, G. N. ...	Ju. Cl., 1st Cl. ...	T. Nottingham, '89; 2nd Cl. Ju. Cl. E. in C.O., '91
" ...	Barnes, G. H. ...	Ch. En. H.M.T.S. "Alert."	2nd En., '91
" ...	Mountain, W. S. ...	Draughtsman and Shorthand writer	T. M'chester, '85
" ...	Constable, A. W. ...	Ju. Cl., 2nd Cl. ...	T. M'chester, '85
C.T.O. ... ..	Russell, J. ...	As. Contr. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '56
" ... ..	Brookman, H.W. ...	Sup. (Hr. scale) ...	Mag. Tel. Co., '53; Sup. Lr. scale, '86
" ... ..	Morgan, C. A. ...	Sup. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '57
" ... ..	Parker, E. P. ...	As. Sup. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '66; As. Sup. 2nd Cl., '90
" ... ..	Gibson, T. ...	" 2nd Cl. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '68; Sen. T., '86
" ... ..	Hagan, H. ...	" ... ..	L. B. & S. C. Ry., '67; G.P.O., '73; Sen. T., '86

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
C.T.O. ... ..	Melvin, E. J. ...	Sen. T. ... ..	1873; 1st Cl., '85
" ... ..	Munro, W. R. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
" ... ..	Moore, J. P. ...	" ... ..	Ex. Rl. En.; 2nd Cl., '89.
" ... ..	Marshall, C.C.F.	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Dawtry, J. A. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Tunstall, E. S. H.	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Miss H. A. Read	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	" A.K. Sparrow	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	" E. M. Wyatt	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
L.P.S.D. (Con- tr.'s Office)	Sealy, L. B. ...	As. Sup. ... ..	1866; 1st Cl. Cl., '82
" ... ..	Matthews, W. ...	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	1874; I. B. & E. C., '84; 2nd Cl. C., '90
" ... ..	Kewley, H. G....	2nd Cl. Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T. Macclesfld, '84; C.O., L.P.S.D., '85
L.P.S.D. (Cirn. Off.)	Powell, A. H. ...	P.C. ... ..	1864; Cir. Off. '82; As. Sup., '87
" ... ..	Bumby, C. J. ...	2nd Cl. Cl. ... ..	T. Leeds, '78; 3rd Cl. Cl. Contr's Off., '91
" ... ..	Duff, G. A. ...	In. ... ..	1870; O., '86
" ... ..	Anderson, H. W.	1st Cl. O. ... ..	1874; 2nd Cl. Sr., '77; 1st Cl., '86
" ... ..	Turner, C. H. ...	" ... ..	1873; 2nd Cl. Sr., '77
" ... ..	Hemmett, R. R. ...	2nd Cl. O. ... ..	1871; 2nd Cl. Sr. '73
E.C.D.O. ... ..	Dyton, E. ... ..	1st Cl. Cm. and T.	2nd Cl., '85
S.W.D.O. ... ..	Nutland, H. ...	1st Cl. O. ... ..	1871; 2nd Cl. Sr., '73
" ... ..	Southgate, W. ...	2nd Cl. O. ... ..	1874; 2nd Cl. Sr., '77
" ... ..	Howes, W. H....	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1882; 2nd Cl. Sr., '88
" ... ..	Miss R. M. Cook	1st Cl. Cm. and T. .	2nd Cl., '85
N.D.O. ... ..	" A. Went- worth	" ... ..	2nd Cl. N. D. O., '85; W.D.O., '88
" ... ..	Jones, W. ... ..	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1873; 2nd Cl. Sr., '88
W.D.O. ... ..	Atkins, G. W. P.	" ... ..	1882
" ... ..	Cadney, E. H. ...	" ... ..	1880
W.C.D.O. ... ..	Moore, J. ... ..	" ... ..	1884; 2nd Cl. Sr. S.W., '88
E.D.O. ... ..	Turner, H. G. ...	" ... ..	1883
" ... ..	Wilson, J. ... ..	" ... ..	1886
N.W.D.O. ... ..	Craig, W. A. ...	" ... ..	1884
Wandsworth ...	White, H. J. ...	" ... ..	1884

### PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Barrow ... ..	Armstrong, T....	Cl. ... ..	T. 2nd Cl., Bradford, '77
Bedford ... ..	Drable, E. ... ..	" ... ..	S.C. & T. '83
Birmingham ...	Miss K.F. Proctor	1st Cl. Cm. & Ret.	1891
Bradford (Yks.)	Hart, L. ... ..	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '87
Brighton ... ..	Evens, C. F. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
Bristol ... ..	Coles, A. J. ...	1st Cl. As. Sup. ...	1871; 2nd Cl., '90
" ... ..	Toleman, F. H.	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
Cheltenham ...	Wigley, E. J. ...	Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T., '85
Chester ... ..	Cooper, J. T. ...	1st. Cl. T. ... ..	1881
Darlington ...	Norman, J. ...	As. Sup. (T.) ...	Elec. T. Co., '65; Cl. '91
" ... ..	Hutchinson, W.	Cl. (T.) ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '67; 1st Cl. T. '86
" ... ..	McMillan, J. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1875

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Derby ... ..	Frisby, J. ... ..	As. Sup. (T.) ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '67; Stamford, '70; 1st Cl. T. Leicester, '71; Cl. (T.) '87
" ... ..	Herringshaw, G. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	1874; 1st Cl. S.C., '85
" ... ..	Whalley, H. ... ..	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
Dudley ... ..	Evans, F. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T., '76
Gloucester ... ..	Mills, J. ... ..	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1860; Cl., 2nd Cl., '71; Cl., '75; As. Sup., '91; Supt., '93
" ... ..	Allen, E. T. ... ..	Sup. (P.) ... ..	Cl., '71; As. Sup., '91
" ... ..	Lewis, A. ... ..	As. Sup. (P.) ... ..	1869; S.C. & T., '81; Cl., '93
" ... ..	Durrett, W. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	1865; S.C., 2nd Cl., '69
" ... ..	Martin, F. W. ... ..	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	1879; S.C., 2nd Cl., '84
Grimsby ... ..	Bolton, W. R. ... ..	Sup. (T.) ... ..	1870; Cl., Derby, '86; As. Sup. (T.), '91
Hull... ..	Wright, C. ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '66
" ... ..	Whitton, J. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '80
Kingston - on - Thames	Butler, E. J. ... ..	As. Sup. ... ..	1873; Cl., '87
" ... ..	Cole, H. W. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T., '74
" ... ..	Wise, A. ... ..	" ... ..	Southampton, '79; K.-on-Thames, '80
Leicester... ..	Featherston, R. ... ..	Sup. (T.) ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '67; Sup. (T.), Grimsby, '88
" ... ..	Geeson, G. H. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '79; 1st Cl., '92
" ... ..	Forman, W. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1885
Liverpool ... ..	Richards, O. W. ... ..	As. Sup. 1st Cl. (P.) ... ..	S.C., '67; Cl., '83; As. Sup., 2nd Cl., '90
" ... ..	Dowbiggin, G. ... ..	" 2nd Cl. (P.) ... ..	S.C., '71; Cl., '86
" ... ..	Morris, A. H. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	S.C., 2nd Cl., '78; 1st Cl., '86
" ... ..	Lascelles, G. ... ..	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Daniels, W. ... ..	" ... ..	"
Maidstone ... ..	Capon, S. H. ... ..	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1870
" ... ..	Styles, A. G. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	1879
Manchester ... ..	Turner, R. H. ... ..	1st Cl. S. C. ... ..	1885
" ... ..	Fitton, R. H. ... ..	" ... ..	"
" ... ..	Miss M. Gray ... ..	1st Cl. Cm. & Ret. ... ..	1889
" ... ..	" F. Dodd ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1885
Newport (Mon.) ... ..	Edwards, T. ... ..	Sup. (T.) ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '54; Cl. (T.), '87; As. Sup. (T.), '91
" ... ..	Gough, W. H. ... ..	As. Sup. (T.) ... ..	U. K. T. Co., '60; Cl. (T.), '87
" ... ..	Turner, F. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	U. K. T. Co., '66
" ... ..	Shepherd, J. H. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
Norwich ... ..	Mills, W. ... ..	Sup. (P.) ... ..	1861; S.C., '63; Cl., '77; As. Sup., '91
" ... ..	Ribbands, W. ... ..	As. Sup. (P.) ... ..	1861; S.C., '62; Cl., '83
" ... ..	Daines, W. A. ... ..	" ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '73; 1st Cl., '86; Cl., '87
" ... ..	Bell, A. ... ..	" ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '80; 1st Cl., '86; Cl., '87

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Norwich ... ..	Bessey, C. W. ...	Cl. (P.) ... ..	1862 ; S.C. & T., 2nd Cl., '77 ; 1st Cl. S.C., '86
" ... ..	Bocking, G. M.	" ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '87
" ... ..	Parfitt, C. C. ...	1st Cl. S. C. ...	1874 ; 2nd Cl. S.C., '77
" ... ..	Parsons, G. ...	Cl. (T.) ... ..	T., 2nd Cl., '74 ; 1st Cl., '91
" ... ..	Crotch, A. ...	1st Cl. (T.) ...	2nd Cl. T., '83
" ... ..	Miss A. M. B. Cooper	1st Cl. Cm. & Ret.	S.C. & T., Wellingboro', '82 ; Colchester, '92
Nottingham ...	Rainbow, R. W.	As. In. T. Ms. ...	(Appd. S.C. & T., '86 ; Resgd. '88). Re-appd. '92
Peterborough ...	Bailey, A. N. ...	Ch. Cl.... ...	T., '66 ; Cl. (P.), '87 ; As. Sup. (P.), '91
" ... ..	Moyer, F. W. ...	As. Sup.... ...	1875 ; S.C., '76 ; Cl., '91
" ... ..	Royce, R. ...	Cl. ... ..	1875 ; S.C., '76
Plymouth ...	Ballard, W. H.	Sup. (T.) ... ..	Bristol & Exeter Ry. Co., '60 ; As. Sup. (T.), '91
" ... ..	Jennings, W. ...	As. Sup. (P.)... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '81 ; 1st Cl., '88 ; Cl., '91
Portsmouth ...	Howard, E. A.	" ... ..	1874 ; 2nd Cl. S.C. & T., '79 ; 1st Cl. S.C., '84 ; Cl., '91
" ... ..	Jacobs, C. H. ...	Cl. (P.) ... ..	1881 ; 2nd Cl. S.C., '82 ; 1st Cl., '88
" ... ..	Miss I. R. Court	Supr. ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C. & T., '80 ; 1st Cl. T., '86
" ... ..	" I. Hardy ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '85
" ... ..	" J. Stewart...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	" C. E. Court	" ... ..	" '86
" ... ..	" C. M. E. Russell	" ... ..	" '87
" ... ..	" E. Ashby...	" ... ..	" '87
Reading ... ..	Rowland, J. W.	As. Sup. ... ..	1869 ; S.C. & T., '72 ; Cl., '94
" ... ..	Keen, C. ...	Cl. ... ..	1876 ; 1st Cl. S.C. & T., '92
" ... ..	Satchell, C. E....	1st Cl. S. C. & T....	2nd Cl., '85
Sheffield ... ..	Turner, E. R. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	Cl., York, '74 ; Ch. Cl., York, '87
Southport ...	Beeston, G. ...	As. Sup.... ...	2nd Cl. S.C., '82 ; 1st Cl., '92 ; Cl., '93
Stockton - on - Tees	Whitmarsh, A....	Ch. Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl. T., Hull, '74 ; 1st Cl. S.C., '86 ; Cl., '91
Swindon ... ..	Chun, M. ...	In. of P. & T. Ms.	Leeds, '86 ; S.C. & T., Swindon, '92
Tonbridge ...	Hearsey, H. ...	Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T., '88
Wigan ... ..	Magraw, J. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1875 ; Cl., '86
York ... ..	Gale, R. J. ...	" ... ..	1872 ; Sup. (P.), '89
" ... ..	Slater, J. ...	Sup. ... ..	1871 ; As. Sup., '91
" ... ..	Midgley, J. W.	As. Sup.... ...	1871 ; Cl., '87
" ... ..	Child, A. H. ...	Cl. ... ..	1876 ; 1st Cl. S.C., '89
" ... ..	Triffitt, W. ...	1st Cl. S. C. ...	2nd Cl., '82
" ... ..	Hurworth, F. ...	" ... ..	" '83
" ... ..	Wootten, J. W.	" ... ..	" '84



OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
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## SCOTLAND.

Dundee ... ..	Sadler, J. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., 1880
Edinburgh ... ..	Forster, W. ... ..	Cl. (P.) ... ..	1876 ; 1st Cl. S.C. '90
" ... ..	Scott, T. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1880 ; 2nd Cl. S.C., '82
" ... ..	Warden, T. ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	1870 ; 1st Cl. T., '83
" ... ..	Lockie, J. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1883
" ... ..	Lawson, J. ... ..	" ... ..	1883
" ... ..	Miss M. E. Gray. ... ..	" ... ..	1887
Glasgow ... ..	Davis, A. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1882 ; 2nd Cl. S.C., '85
" ... ..	Miss K. W. Russell.	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
Greenock ... ..	Cochrane, C. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1882

## IRELAND.

Belfast ... ..	Campbell, W. H. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '87
" ... ..	Simms, J. T. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Miss A. T. Reid. ... ..	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
Dublin ... ..	McCowen, J. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '80
" ... ..	Moffett, W. ... ..	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '80
" ... ..	Palmer, J. W. ... ..	Paper Keeper ... ..	1881 ; Dublin, '86
" ... ..	Miss E. M. Dunne ... ..	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl., '81
" ... ..	" E. E. Harris ... ..	" ... ..	S.B., London, 1882 ; A.O., Dublin, '82
" ... ..	" J. Flint ... ..	As. Supr. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '69
" ... ..	Mrs. M. Byrne .. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1873
Mallow ... ..	Hetherington, R. ... ..	1st Cl. ... ..	1885 ; Clonmel, 1887 ; S.C. & T., Limerick Junc., '90

# Retirements.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sec.'s Office ..	H. W. Linford...	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	S.B., '65; S.O., '72; 1st Cl. Cl., '87
R.A.G.O. ... ..	T. G. J. West ...	1st Cl. Tr. ... ..	1877
S.B. ... ..	*W. A. Parker ...	2nd Div. Cl. ....	1887
" ... ..	*J. Gothard ...	" ... ..	1892
" ... ..	Miss F. E. Mason	2nd Cl. Cl. ... ..	1877
E.-in-C.O. ...	†H. Eaton ...	Sup. En. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '51; Maur- itius Gov. Tels., '66; Elec. T. Co., '69
C. of S.O. ...	H. Jeff ... ..	1st Cl. Ex. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '62; C. of S.O., 1878
C.T.O. ... ..	H. T. Cooper ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '81
" ... ..	Miss F. E. Dolby	Supr. ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '62; As. Sup. '81
R.L.O. ... ..	†J. England ...	1st Cl. Ex. ... ..	1854; R.L.O. '67
L.P.S.D., Ciren. Office	J. G. Penney ...	O. ... ..	1856; Sr. (Tr.), '66
" ... ..	M. O'Brien ...	" ... ..	1856
" ... ..	G. Dobson ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1881
" ... ..	T. Shirley ...	" ... ..	1858; Sr., '61
" ... ..	F. T. E. Pitts ...	" ... ..	1858; Sr., '65
" ... ..	R. A. Powell ...	" ... ..	1874
" ... ..	H. Hitchens ...	" ... ..	1860; S., '65
" ... ..	T. Fox ... ..	" ... ..	1873
" ... ..	F. W. Wilkins ...	" ... ..	1873
" ... ..	J. Tomlinson ...	" ... ..	1860; Sr., '65
" ... ..	*A. J. Duncan ...	2nd Cl. Sr. ... ..	1892
" ... ..	*J. L. Kimpton ...	" ... ..	1888
" ... ..	*T. Reynolds ...	" ... ..	1884; Sr., '88
E.C.D.O. ...	R. Jones ... ..	1st Cl. Cm. and Tel.	1872
" ... ..	J. Brain ... ..	O. ... ..	1860; Sr., '61
" ... ..	Miss A. Smith ...	Super. ... ..	1870
S.W.D.O. ...	F. Caffery ...	1st Cl. O. ... ..	1863; Sr. '67
" ... ..	Miss S. A. Stone- ham	1st Cl. Cm. and Tel.	2nd Cl., '82
" ... ..	*J. L. Hales ...	In. T. Ms. ... ..	Sr., '85; In. T. Ms., '88
S.E.D.O. ...	J. W. Jackson ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1875; 2nd Cl. Sr., '80
N.D.O. ...	T. Goodwin ...	" ... ..	1866; 2nd Cl. Sr., '70
Paddington ...	†E. Smith ...	Pmr. ... ..	Cl. Bath, '45; I.O. Lon., '53; Dist. Sup., S.E., '76; Pmr., S.E.D.O., '82; Pad. 87
N.W.D.O. ...	S. Small ... ..	In. ... ..	1859; Sr., '61; Cm., '69; O., '79

\* Awarded a Gratuity. † Retires under the provisions of the Order  
in Council of the 15th August, 1890.

## PROVINCES—ENGLAND AND WALES.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Bangor ... ..	R. Roberts ...	Postmaster ... ..	Cl. '46
Bournemouth...	*H. R. Colbron...	S.C. & T. ... ..	S.C. & T. Swindon, '83; T. C.T.O. '85; S.C. & T., Croydon, '92; Bournemouth, '93
Chelmsford ...	Miss E. E. Granger	S.C. & T. ... ..	1873
Cheltenham ...	J. A. Probert ...	Cl. ... ..	S.C. '73; Cl. '81
Chester ... ..	W. T. Meadows.	Cl. (T.)... ..	Elec. T. Co., '59; Cl. '88
Fakenham ...	*M. Bambridge...	Postmaster ... ..	1848
Liverpool ...	T. Evans ... ..	Superintendent ...	1858; Cl. '66; As. Sup. '81
Maidstone ...	W. Swift ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1868; S.C. & T., '82
Manchester ...	J. Holt ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1859; Cl., Bolton, '66; Manchester, '78
Sevenoaks ...	*T. C. Spencer ...	S.C. & T. ... ..	1890
Southampton ...	A. Oakshott ...	As. Supt. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '52
Truro ... ..	G. P. Chapman..	Cl. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '52; Cl., Truro, '87
Watford ... ..	J. Morley ... ..	Postmaster ... ..	1857
Wigan ... ..	Wm. Heaton ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	Cl. '54; Ch. Cl. '86
Wolverhampton	*Miss L. M. Miers	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1888

## SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh ...	Mather, J. ...	As. In. Pn. ... ..	1854; O., '83
Inverness ...	Miss E. T. Row- land	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '76; 1st Cl., '87

## IRELAND.

Belfast ... ..	*Bill, D. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1892
Dublin ... ..	†Holmes, J. ...	Sur. ... ..	I. O., Ireland, '46; S. O., Ireland, '54; Cl.-in-Ch., 1855; Sur. Cl., 1870; Sur., '84
„ ... ..	McDermott, W. J.	Cl. ... ..	1870; Cl., '81

\* Awarded a Gratuity. † Retires under the provisions of the Order  
in Council of the 15th August, 1890.

## *Postmasters Appointed.*

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Alfreton ... ..	Miss M. E. Cutler .	As., '68; S.C. & T., '93
Barnet ... ..	Sampson, R. A. ...	Cl., Falmouth, '70; Ch. Cl., '81
Chester-le-Street ...	Chatterton, J. ...	1872; 2nd Cl. Sr., London, '74; Cm. and T., W.D.O., '83; Pmr., Har- leston, '92
Harleston ... ..	Mrs. E. M. Brooke	Pms., Stonham, '83
Maidenhead ... ..	Winkup, J. L. ...	Cl., Bury St. Edmund's, '63; Pmr., Barnet, '84
Oswestry ... ..	Chellew, C. H. C. .	Elec. Tel. Co., '63; S.C. & T., Devon- port, '70; Pmr., Staines, '91
Retford ... ..	Rayner, J. ... ..	T., Peterboro', '71; Hitchin, '75; Sheffield, '77; Sur. Sta. Cl., 85
Rugby... ..	Boyd, A. ... ..	(Formerly employed at Newcastle- on-Tyne); S.C., Berwick, '60; Pmr., Brecon, '82; Oswestry, '89
St. Austell ... ..	Matthews, C. M....	Elec. Tel. Co., '53; Cl., Devonport, '91
Staines ... ..	Rickus, I. ... ..	L'pool, '64; O., '71; In. T. Ms., '77; Pmr., Northwich, '89
West Hartlepool ...	Ilisley, J. S. ... ..	G.W. Ry., '61; Elec. Tel. Co., '65; S. C. & T., Falmouth, '70; In. E.-in-C.O., '83; Pmr., Maiden- head, '92
Witham ... ..	Pridgeon, T. W. A.	Copyist S.O.; G.P.O., '81; As. C., '93
Bagenalstown ... ..	Joyce, P. ... ..	
Boyle ... ..	Miss R. McDermott	S.C. & T., Castlereagh, '87

## Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
R.A.G.O. ..	H. Howes... ..	Ac. ... ..	M.O., '53; R.A.G.O., '72; P.C., '83; Acct., '92
„ ...	E. Goulding ...	2nd Div. Cl.(Hr.Gr.)	Elec. T. Co., '62; R.A. G.O., '70; 2nd Div. Cl., Hr. Grade, '90
„ (P.O.B.)	Miss E. Steer ...	2nd Cl. Sr. ... ..	1887
„ „	Miss F. E. Read	„ „ ... ..	1891
S.B. ...	J. Foster ... ..	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	1865; 1st Cl. Cl., '92
M.O.O. ...	C. J. Watkins ...	2nd Div. Cl.(Hr.Gr.)	Boy Cl., '74; 2nd Div. Hr. Grade, '94
E.-in-C.O. ...	F. H. Pomeroy...	1st Cl. En. ... ..	T., Limerick, '70; E.-in-C.O., '81; 1st Cl. En. 1891
„ ...	T. Crawford ...	Ch. En. (Cable Ship "Alert")	2nd En., '89; Ch. En., '91
C.T.O. ...	J. H. Daniels ...	As. Sup. ... ..	1870
„ ...	W. T. H. Simmons	Senr. T. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '52; 1st Cl. T., '70
„ ...	A. J. L. James ...	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1894
„ ...	P. Johns ... ..	„ „ ... ..	Plymouth, '81; C.T.O., 1892
L.P.S.D.(Circn. Off.)	W. H. Howard...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1881; 2nd Cl., '82
„ „	A. Wood ... ..	„ „ ... ..	1873; 2nd Cl., '76
„ „	C. A. Gibbs ... ..	„ „ ... ..	1878; 1st Cl., '91
„ „	W. J. Frith ... ..	2nd Cl. Sr. ... ..	1880
„ „	A. E. Fitch ... ..	„ „ ... ..	S.C. & T., Gravesend, '91; C.O., L.P.S.D., '92
„ „	H. Whittaker ...	„ „ ... ..	1893
W.D.O. ...	J. G. Holland ...	1st Cl. O. ... ..	1863; 2nd Cl. O., '76
Alfreton ...	T. T. Cutler ... ..	Pmr. ... ..	1854
Birmingham	Miss E. J. Holmes	2nd Cl. Cm. & Ret.	1892
Bournemouth	Miss A. M. Richards	S.C. & T. ... ..	1893
Brighton ...	C. H. Cooke ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1864
„ ...	E. N. Tigar ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1890
Cardiff ...	E. N. Smith ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1882
Chester ...	Miss A. E. G. Whiteley	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	S.C. & T., Newbury, '90; Chester, '92
Derby ...	G. E. Niblett ... ..	Cl. ... ..	1873
Dover ...	E. Stubbs ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	Submar. T. Co.; G.P.O., '89
Hull... ..	W. E. West ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C. ... ..	1887
Ilkley ...	W. Vickers ... ..	Pmr. ... ..	1884
Llandudno	D. L. Jones ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1887
Leeds ...	A. Gaunt ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C. ... ..	1871

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Manchester ...	Jones, J. ...	Cl. (T) ...	Mag. T. Co., '63; Cl., '90
" ...	Collinson, A. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '82
Norwich ...	Flint, W. ...	2nd Cl. T. ...	1884
Pershore ...	Miss A. Jones ...	S.C. & T. ...	1892
Rochdale ...	Taylor, A....	" ...	1884
Shrewsbury ...	Rawbone, T. ...	2nd Cl. S.C....	S.C. & T., Atherstone, '83; Shrewsbury, '91
TunbridgeWells	Tickner, J. H....	S.C. & T. ...	1872; S.C. & T., '76

## SCOTLAND.

Ayr ...	Hall, W. ...	S.C. & T. ..	1876
Crieff ...	Wotherspoon, J..	S.C. & T. ...	1892
Peebles ...	Dalgleish, J. A..	S.C. & T. ...	1894

## IRELAND.

Belfast ...	Scarborough, E. H.	1st Cl. T. ...	1883; 1st Cl. '91
Dublin ...	Rock, D. J. ...	As. Sup. 2nd Cl. (T.)	Mag. Tel. Co., '69; As. Sup., '91
" ...	McCowen, J. ...	Apparatus Ex. ..	1866; S.O., '81
" ...	Cuthbert, H. P..	" "	1869; S.O., '71

## ABBREVIATIONS.

As., Assistant; Cl., Clerk; Cm., Counterman or Counterwoman; En., Engineer; Ex., Examiner; In., Inspector; Ju., Junior; Ms., Messenger; O., Overseer; P.C., Principal Clerk; Pn., Postman; Pmr., Postmaster; Pr. Kr., Paper Keeper; R.C., Relay Clerk; Ret., Returner; Sr., Sorter; S.C., Sorting Clerk; Sup., Superintendent or Superintending; Supr., Supervisor; Sur., Surveyor; T., Telegraphist; Tr., Tracer.





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W.A.B. From a bas relief by OSWALD FORD



# ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

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JULY, 1895.

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## *Money Order Office Gossip and History.*

### PART III.

**I**N 1870, the year in which the foundation stone of the General Post Office West was laid, a reduction of commission, with a view to induce the public to send orders instead of stamps, and thus to diminish the temptation to steal letters in the course of transmission, was discussed, and in the next year carried into effect. The change made was as follows:—

OLD COMMISSION.		NEW COMMISSION.	
Orders not exceeding	£2 ... 3d.	Orders under	..... 10s. ... 1d.
"	" £5 ... 6d.	"	" ..... £1 ... 2d.
"	" £7 ... 9d.	"	" ..... £2 ... 3d.
"	" £10 ... 1s.	"	" ..... £3 ... 4d.
			and so on
		"	" ..... £10 ... 11d.
		"	of ..... £10 ... 1s.

In the same year the number of Orders issued increased by 20 per cent., but the result was far from satisfactory, and the report speaks as follows:—"The general result of the late concession is that whereas before the profit of the Money Order Department had gradually risen to nearly £50,000 per annum, it has now fallen to a rate of but little more than £10,000 per annum, fully half of which is obtained from Foreign and Colonial Orders. My hope that this change would be followed by a reduction in the number of thefts in the Post Office has not been fulfilled."\*

This unsatisfactory state of things continued till in 1876 the increase in the number of "small" Orders produced on the working of the Office a loss of £10,000 per annum, and in this year Mr. Chetwynd (who had now become Receiver and Accountant-General) proposed to introduce Postal Orders. It was four more years before the suggestion was carried into effect, and we must pause here to glance at certain very important changes in the personnel of the Office.

In 1870, the keeping of the Postmasters' ledgers had been transferred from the Money Order Office to the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office, then under Mr. Scudamore, and the space thus rendered vacant in the Money Order Office building was used by the newly founded Telegraph Department.

Next year the Controller, Mr. Jackson, who had served in the Office ever since it was first taken over in 1838, retired through ill health; and 15 months later his successor, Mr. Farmer, was superannuated for the same reason.

The next Controller was Mr. Prall, Mr. Fawn becoming his assistant, and under the government of these gentlemen, somehow or other, the Office got into a very bad way. Unpleasant rumours soon filled the air, and promotion seemed hopeless to any save the hangers-on of one clique. The state of things grew so desperate that at last a memorial was addressed to the Secretary signed by 13 of the Junior Officers, asking that an enquiry into the condition of affairs might be instituted. Sufficient *prima facie* evidence was adduced to warrant the Postmaster-General of the day in appointing a special departmental commission of enquiry. It was more than two

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\* This and all other official estimates of profit and loss prior to 1878 were made on the basis of each Inland Order costing 3d. to the Department. This basis was found to be inaccurate, and recent estimates assume the cost of an Order to be 2½d. The importance of this correction is too obvious to need further comment.

years before the report of the commission appeared ; and meanwhile the tension in the Office, as may be easily imagined, was extreme, and to some almost intolerable. On the one side was the official ring, frightened but powerful, and watching for an opportunity to crush those who had dared to impeach them. On the other hand were the memorialists fighting with their official lives in their hands, and keenly watching every opportunity of substantiating their case. Between the opposing forces were the majority of the men in the Office, anxious not to compromise themselves by being too familiar with the chiefs, and careful not to show sympathy with the malcontents for fear lest agitation should prove a losing game. Every man suspected his neighbour, and all anxiously awaited the dénouement. It came at length. The report was kept strictly private, and has never leaked out, but there can be little doubt that the allegations made were proved up to the hilt. After nearly three years suspense from the beginning of the "row," the Controller, Assistant-Controller, the three Superintending Officers, and four or five First Class Clerks were either superannuated, transferred, or degraded. Mr. Hawkes of the Savings Bank Department, and Mr. Harris of the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office, were then appointed respectively Controller and Assistant-Controller, and when the Office had been in some measure reorganized by them, Messrs. Hanley and Manson of the Savings Bank Department were appointed to two of the vacant Principal Clerkships. The Money Order Office has hardly yet recovered from the disgrace of these revelations. The strict discipline introduced in 1876 has never since been relaxed, the work on nearly all the duties was increased, and there is little doubt that the daily average of work per man in the Money Order Office is heavier than in any other branch of the Post Office. Men whom it has been considered desirable for various reasons to remove from other branches have usually been sent to the Money Order Office as a punishment ; and when finally, by way of a *coup de grâce*, the Office itself was removed to the long disused and insanitary buildings of the old Coldbath Fields Prison, it is no wonder that it became known throughout the Post Office as "Siberia." Moreover, five of the ten first-class clerkships formerly assigned to the Office were abolished, and have not yet been restored, in spite of the vastly increased difficulty and complexity of the present work. When we say that of the 133 clerks on the staff 17 years ago only 29 or 30 are left, it will, we think, be admitted that the poor unfortunate "Siberians" of to-day have been punished enough for the sins of their predecessors,

and may fairly claim to be restored once more to the smile of official favour. But perhaps the ruling powers wish to imitate the Postmaster who replied to an official report with the draconic words "I have *demolished* the Office(r) in fault."

Of the many changes introduced under the new régime, which dates from the beginning of 1877, perhaps the most important is what is known as "mental casting." This ingenious scheme was worked out by Mr. Hanley in 1878, and has ever since been one of the most characteristic features of the work of the Department. Previously, the paid Orders sent up daily together with the Money Order Account from each Office, were compared one by one with the credit entries, these latter being duly ticked off and the totals checked. This was a task of great magnitude, and as of course the entries were usually right, the ticking often became automatic, and errors were thus frequently passed.\* The root idea of the new plan was to separate the Orders from the Accounts, to group both into sections, and to cast the totals of the credits in each section of the Accounts, and also the amounts of the corresponding paid Orders. The two totals thus found should agree, and usually do. If they do not an error has to be looked for in detail. Unless then there are counterbalancing errors in the same section, which occasionally happens, the check is perfect, and there is no possibility of "faking" the totals, as the two sets of casting are done by different men, and the totals compared by yet other men. The peculiar term "*mental casting*" is applied to the process of adding up the amounts of the Orders in sections averaging about 80, by turning them up with the fingers, and going through them four times over; once to count them, and once each to cast the pence, shillings, and pounds. The "average" rate is 800 Orders an hour, and the work is mostly performed by boy clerks; but the strain is very great, and many men, in other respects good workers, never succeed in attaining the "average" speed. Speaking for myself, I think "*mental casting*" the greatest drudgery under heaven. However, the plan was most ingeniously devised, and being applied to the final check of the Postmasters' debits as well as the credits, it saves no little clerical force.

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\* On one occasion a Clerk had ticked off several hundred Orders from the Manchester Account, and was surprised on the following day at receiving the Orders from the Postmaster with an explanation of their not being sent before. His "ticking" was "automatic," indeed!

So much for the inner working of the Office. Its relations with the public we have already brought up to 1876, when the increase in issues of the cheap Orders under £2 in value was causing a serious and growing loss on the working of the Money Order system.

To inquire into this and suggest a remedy a small committee was appointed, which sat in the spring of 1876, with Mr. George Moore, of the well known firm of Copestakes, Moore & Co., as its chairman. Several proposals were submitted and discussed, but the committee reported strongly in favour of Mr. Chetwynd's Postal Note scheme, recommending, at the same time, the raising of the rate of commission on the old Money Orders to 2d. for amounts under 10s., and 3d. for those between 10s. and £2. The committee were unable to recommend any important improvement in the Money Order system itself, and admitted that the proposed Postal Notes would necessarily give less security to the public than the almost perfectly safe, although somewhat clumsy, Money Orders. The rate of commission was raised, as suggested, in 1878, but it was not till two years later that the new Postal Orders appeared. In the year 1877—78 the greatest number of Money Orders on record were issued, and the total reached 18,368,901, the sum represented being £27,870,117. Their numbers were first lessened by the rise of the commission, but from 1880 their place for small, even, amounts began to be taken by their rivals; although nearly 40 % of the present number of Orders issued are for sums not exceeding £1.

The Postal Orders were from the first a huge success, nearly 650,000 being sold in the first 3 months, and every year since has seen a steady growth in their number. When the scheme was being elaborated Mr. Hawkes seems to have been asked if he would take the control of the Postal Orders under his wing, but he refused to have anything to do with them, and consequently the Postal Order Branch has always been worked as a part of the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office. This was a great mistake. It was bad for the Money Order Office, bad for the public, and bad for the Post Office as a whole. As a result the two systems of transmitting money have always been more or less rivals, when they ought to have been mutually supplementary, and might by this time have been amalgamated into some joint system better than either. The Money Order is dearer and perhaps not so convenient, but it is *safe*. "Money Orders," says one of the annual reports of the Postmaster-General, "are often lost and often stolen, but the

departmental check is so complete that not more than one in every hundred thousand of the Orders issued is paid to another than the lawful owner." If a letter containing a Money Order goes astray, the money can always be obtained by means of a duplicate, and moreover payment by Money Order can always be proved. On the other hand the cheap and handy Postal Order gives rise to constant frauds, and has brought about the very evil that the whole system was introduced to stop, viz., the stealing of letters for the sake of their contents.\* So numerous are the thefts of letters containing Postal Orders that a large increase has had to be made in the staff of the Confidential Enquiry Branch to trace or check the thieves, and in the United States only last year it was found expedient to stop the issue of Postal Orders altogether. At all events nothing seems clearer than that Money Orders and Postal Orders should be managed by one office, nor does there seem any sufficient reason why either branch should form part of the Receiver & Accountant-General's Office, an already overgrown department, which should surely be limited to its sufficiently herculean task of attending to the Post Office Book-keeping. It is interesting to note, by the way, that the shape and style of printing of the Postal Order was derived from a previous form of Money Order, as will be seen from the forms reproduced on another page.

After the introduction of Postal Orders the work of the Money Order Office fell rapidly for some years, and the staff was correspondingly reduced. But, step by step, the ebb of the tide has been checked, and for many years now it has been flowing again. In 1883 the rates of commission on foreign Orders were reduced by one-third, and in 1885 the system of "Through" Orders was introduced, by means of which foreign countries and colonies, not doing Money Order business direct, might send remittances to each other through the intermediary of the London Office, which deducts a small commission in transit. Then in 1886 the Inland Money Order commission was reduced to its present level, and further simplifications were made. Last of all, in 1889, Telegraphic Money Order business was begun experimentally, and, proving successful, has since been extended all over the country. Month by month this telegraphic business, in spite of its clumsiness and the unnecessarily high

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\* Sir John Bridge recently said that the public ought to realize that by using Money Orders, instead of Postal Orders which were cashed so easily, they would considerably reduce the temptations of Post Office servants.

charges levied, has been steadily growing in favour with all classes of the community, especially, of course, at holiday times. It is to be hoped that soon the charges will be considerably reduced, and that arrangements may be made for the sums advised by telegraph to be delivered at the residences of the payees.

The net result of these various improvements is that Inland Orders keep steady or show a slight increase, while Foreign and Colonial Orders are still growing slowly, Government Orders rapidly, Telegraph Orders by leaps and bounds. Thus the whole work of the office is much more complicated, more difficult, and already considerably larger in total amount than even before the appearance of the Postal Orders. The future is of course unknown, but when foreign remittances have been extended and cheapened, Telegraph Orders similarly treated, and the Inland Orders simplified and amalgamated with the Postal Orders, the oldest branch of Her Majesty's Post Office will be no unworthy rival, even in size, of her upstart younger sisters the Savings Bank Department and the Telegraph Department. One other reform is urgent. Every other branch of Post Office work is now transacted during the whole period at which an Office is open to the public, yet in London, at most of the Offices, Money Orders are only issued and paid between 10 and 4, a restriction for which it would be hard to find a reason.

I may here be permitted to refer briefly to one or two points of wider social or economic interest. It will be remembered that one of the reasons for the Post Office undertaking to remit money was to help soldiers and sailors to send home small amounts. This point is specially referred to again by the Postmaster-General in 1859, when marked increases in the remittances from Plymouth, Devonport and from Portsmouth (over £200,000 having been sent from the two centres), seemed to show that sailors were making a more extended use of the system. The payment of soldiers' and sailors' pensions by Money Orders is, too, a distinct boon to their wives and families, and it must not be forgotten that Foreign Orders were first issued for their sakes, and are still largely used by them.

A few years later attention was called to the employment of Money Orders each summer by Irish harvesters and haymakers, of whom the report says:—"Some indeed have been known to use the Money Order Office for the purpose of transmitting their money from town to town along their whole route, by which means they have not merely avoided the risk of losing their money on the road,

but have been enabled, by repeatedly drawing it out and paying it in again, to satisfy themselves from time to time of its safety." In the same report is an interesting note pointing out that nearly every town in the country has its greatest amount of business with London, though round each of the great industrial centres is a small group of towns doing most business with the centre, so that, *e.g.*, Burnley, Bolton, and Blackburn do more with Manchester than with London. Yet the supremacy of the metropolis is manifest when we find Chester doing more with London than with Liverpool, and Coventry sending us twice as many Orders as to Birmingham. It is suggested, and I should think correctly, that the Money Order business follows the ordinary course of trade. The accuracy of the returns obtainable, and the large numbers of Orders involved, might make such figures distinctly valuable to a statistician.

In 1869 a decrease in Scotch issues is attributed to the Scotch bankers having commenced issuing Orders for small sums on their agents. The banks, I notice, have always been jealous of Money Orders, though the rivalry of the Cheque Bank has never yet seriously hurt the Office, in spite of the powerful advocacy of Professor Jevons in the cause of Cheque Bank cheques, to which, somehow, the public have never taken kindly.

The machinery of the Office is by no means always used for strictly praiseworthy objects. A considerable number of Orders are sent nearly every day, for example, to various lottery agents in Hamburg; not a few go to a firm of horse-racing bookmakers, that was driven out of France and Belgium, but has now taken refuge in the Netherlands. To some of the more remote colonies there are more Orders sent for the purchase of postage stamps for collectors than for any other purpose. Occasionally, again, some sudden alteration in the rate of exchange brings over a whole host of Orders for £10 each from some firm in the East, which sees its way to make a percentage out of the "deal." At a certain season every year there come a crowd of small remittances from Dutch bulb growers to the gardeners employed by English gentlemen, presumably by way of secret commission on the business done.

There is much more often a pathetic than a humorous ring in the letters received from people anxious for their money, though few are so sad as the one which, some time since, complained that a delay, due to the oversight of a boy clerk, had caused the death of a poor sick child, for whom a remittance from America was to buy necessary



comforts. Sometimes the public loses its temper, as certainly did a payee, who, being asked for full particulars of his Order, simply sent back a postcard with the words, "Why this humbug? I want my money." Sometimes people expect the Office to act as judge in their private affairs. One man, *e.g.*, had sent an Order to purchase a performing dog, but wanted his money back because "the dog that played tricks was a fraud, and could no more sham death than a dying duck in a thunderstorm could sing the National Anthem." On one occasion a zealous postmaster reaped his own reward, for he was able to reply to an official minute in the words, "I have seen the remitter, who is myself, and paid him the money." But the height of the ludicrous was perhaps reached by a small boy, who altered the amount of an Order, and who, being found out, wrote up to the Secretary, "I am a Sunday school scholar, and have been to Sunday school all the days of my life," and finally wound up with the pathetic appeal, "O, Lord, forgive me!" Sir Stephenson Blackwood was not the man to be hard on so exemplary a Sunday school scholar, but the boy's father undertook to invoke the aid of a cane to make things temporarily and locally unpleasant for his young hopeful.

The history of the Money Order Office would not be complete without some reference to the building in which it has been located for the last six years. Clerkenwell is not by any means the most exhilarating part of the metropolis, nor is Coldbath Fields its most attractive corner. The gloomy and formidable-looking prison was built before the beginning of the century on the northern bank of the River Fleet, which has long since been degraded into a sewer. The whole of the surrounding district seems to have been full of wells, the recollection of which is still preserved by the local names of the streets; and surface springs have recently given much trouble to the contractors engaged on the new Post Office premises, and other adjacent buildings.

The prison was of great size, but the reduction in the numbers of our criminal population caused it to be closed some ten years since. The site was very extensive (about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  acres), and was acquired on favourable terms from the Home Office by the Postal authorities. Almost all the cells and outbuildings have been destroyed to make room for the new Post Office Telegraph Factory and Parcels Post Sorting Offices. The only parts still standing are the old gateway, of which a sketch appeared in the last number of *St. Martin's*, the bakehouse, now the office of the Postal Stores Department, the

Governor's House, used by the Telegraph Department, one corridor of cells, used for Postal Stores, and the Chapel with the Governor's offices underneath it, which together form the present Money Order Office. The Chapel is on the second floor, and is a very large and lofty oblong hall, with bare brick walls and a roof supported by strong iron girders. About 100 clerks and paper-keepers work in this room, and the remainder on the two floors beneath, where the rooms are as inconveniently low as the Chapel is lofty.

The place is situated more than a mile from St. Martin's-le-Grand, but the inconvenience thus caused is somewhat lessened by the "one horse link" portrayed at the end of my former article.

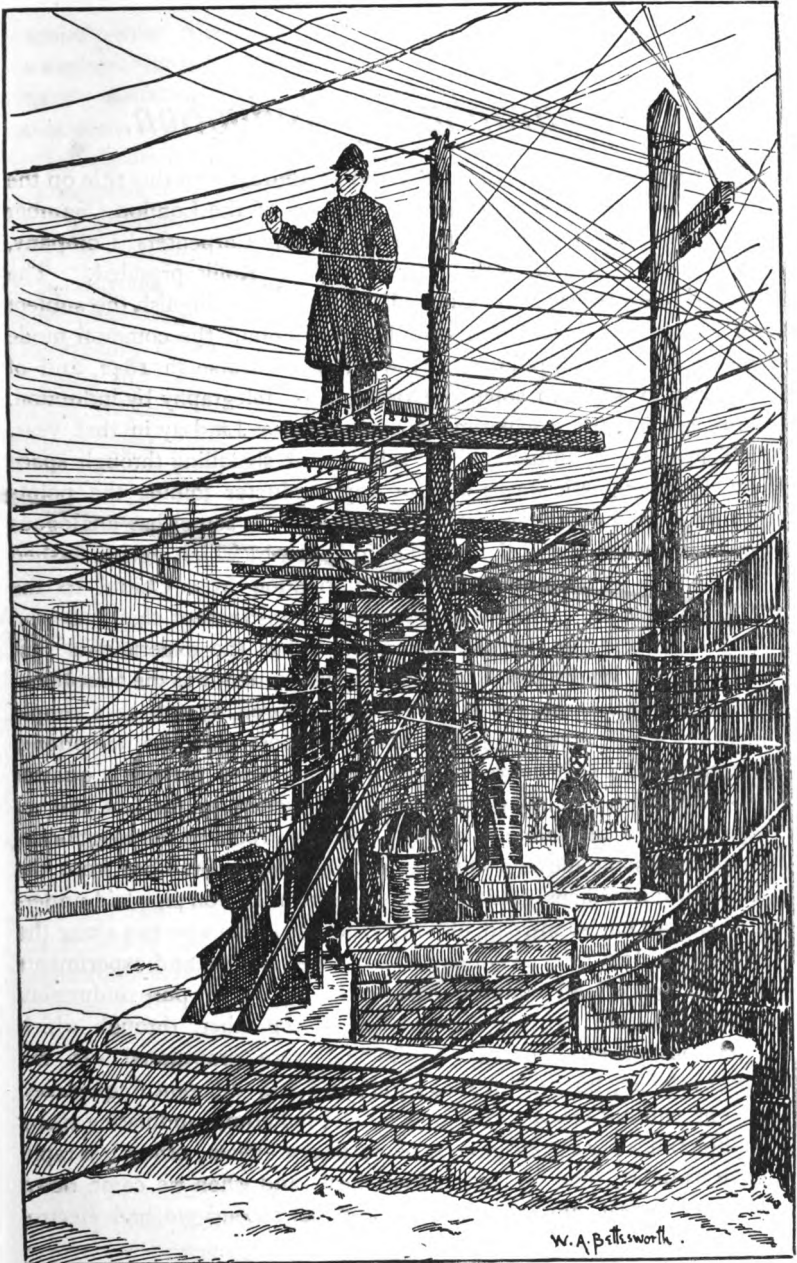
When the Money Order men first moved to what is euphemistically known as Mount Pleasant, there were many interesting relics open to inspection—the cells, the Roman Catholic Chapel, the photographic room, the corridors haunted with memories of forgotten crimes, and the rotunda with the wide view from its roof over northern London—but there is little of interest now left; the pulpit is gone, and the ten commandments, and the texts on the wall, and the pews, and the convicts, only the bare gloominess of the thick walls and the cold stone passages are left to suggest the past.

This is not the place to enter into matters controversial, so the story of the disappointment which filled all minds when we heard that the prison was to be our permanent abode—of the rapid and startling increase in sickness due to the imperfect ventilation and warming—of the constant agitation, followed by no less constant but far less successful efforts to improve the building—this long and not uneventful story must be told, if at all, by another pen. At present the Money Order Office is enveloped in black clouds—we strain our eyes to catch sight of their silver lining.

C. H. DENYER.

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[NOTE.—Since the appearance of the first part of this article Mr. J. W. Hyde, of Edinburgh, has very kindly communicated to me several facts which throw a new light on the early days of the Money Order Office. It appears to be established, from contemporary documents, that the office was started by all the six clerks of the roads of the period (1792), that Mr. Stow was not then in the Post Office, and that therefore the firm "Stow & Co.," with its three partners, could not have come into existence till some years later. There were several changes in the rates of commission, in the method of collecting it, and also in the stamp duties payable, which are described in early Money Order circulars in Mr. Hyde's possession, but they cannot be detailed in a short foot-note.—C.H.D.]



TELEGRAPH WIRES IN NEW YORK.  
(From a Photograph.)

## *Telegraphy by Induction.\**



R. W. H. Preece delivered an address with this title on the 23rd May before the members of the London Chamber of Commerce in the hall of the Carpenters' Company, London Wall. Sir Albert K. Rollit presided. The lecturer said that he had adopted this title to distinguish the subject of his address from "telegraphy by conduction," the common mode of working. He referred to the efforts of Morse in 1842, and of Lindsay in 1854, to solve the problem of telegraphy by induction. One of his earliest experiments was made for Lindsay in that year. "Telegraphy by induction," he said, meant signalling through space by electromagnetic waves without any conductor joining the points between which communication is desired. A somewhat analogous process was the use of the heliostat in India, by which signals flashed by the rays of the sun conveyed information from Chitral to the relieving forces. In this latter case the instrument that received and translated the signals was the eye, but in the experiments that were then being discussed the receiving instrument was the telephone, an exquisite apparatus of precision and research, as well as a simple instrument of utility. If Faraday had possessed the telephone, electricity as a science would have been advanced perhaps a quarter of a century. In 1884, his interest was excited by the fact that an operator in a telephone company's exchange-room in the neighbourhood read some messages that were being sent to Bradford from the General Post Office, London, through a wire in an iron pipe laid underground in Gray's-inn-road, although the telephone wire ran along the housetops 80ft. away. An exhaustive series of tests and experiments proved beyond all doubt that this was a case of pure induction. Space was filled with a medium, called the ether, through which numerous waves of energy—radiations—were propagated with the same velocity, but in different forms and with different frequencies. At one end of the scale extremely minute radiations undulating many million times per second gave us photospheric effects; others less rapid gave us light; then we had radiant heat, and when we came down through a great range to a few hundred per second we had electro-

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\* Reprinted with a slight alteration from the *Electrical Engineer* of the 24th May, 1895

magnetic waves which obeyed the same laws of reflection, refraction, interference, and polarisation. We had to regard (1) the source of energy—the transmitter; (2) a medium for the transmission of the radiations; and (3) an instrument to transform the radiations back to the original form of energy—the receiver.

The lecturer next spoke of Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction, the principle of many valuable inventions, but Faraday (and the lecturer assisted him in his enquiry) tried to find these currents in our telegraph wires and failed. He (Faraday) knew they were there, but he could not trace them. They were subsequently found in long parallel wires in dry climates, like those of India and Persia, but it was not until 1884 that they were traced with certainty, and that was in Gray's-inn-road, London. The fizzing, frying sounds in other currents so annoying in our telephones were due to this induction. In 1885 an induction experiment in the neighbourhood of Newcastle traced the effects to a distance of 2,000 ft. Distinct speech was carried across a space of a quarter of a mile. In 1886 experiments in the valley of the Severn measured disturbances through a distance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The wide expanse of sand on the South Wales coast, well covered by the tide, enabled experiments to be made in air and water, and showed that the inductive effects were equally observed in each, and in 1892 actual messages were sent across the Bristol Channel from the mainland to Flatholm. Subsequently, speech by telephone was easily maintained across Loch Ness, on the Caledonian Canal, a distance of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile. Later, signals were passed between Arran and Kintyre, four miles apart, but the final practical success was obtained in March last. The cable connecting the Island of Mull with the mainland near Oban having been broken, it was decided, pending the arrival of the cable-ship charged with repairs, to establish communication across the channel by this means. The width of the channel at the point selected for the inductive circuit varied from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 miles, and skirting the coast of the island an overhead wire existed between Craignure and Aros in a position well adapted to the object in view. The distance between this wire and the mainland was almost uniformly two miles. As there was no existing wire on the mainland parallel with and sufficiently close to the Aros-Craignure circuit, a guttapercha-insulated wire was laid along the ground from Morvern in a north-westerly direction for a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile. It was earthed at Morvern in a running stream nearly a mile away from the sea, at the other end in the sea.

The apparatus connected to each wire consisted of (a) a rheotome or make-and-break wheel, capable of causing 260 undulations per second; (b) an ordinary battery of such voltage as to send a sufficiently strong current through the circuit—in this case dry cells were used for portability; (c) an ordinary Morse key; (d) a telephone to act as a receiver. The rheotome consisted of a small electromotor driving a divided disc that rapidly made and broke the current the requisite number of times. It was joined in multiple with the line and the main battery. Good signals depended on the rapid rise and fall of the primary current; this intermittent current was broken up into Morse signals by means of a key, these signals being read on the telephone connected to the opposed circuit. Communication was satisfactorily established on Saturday, March 30, but only one message was transmitted on that day. This was due to the fact that the possibility of telegraphic communication was not generally known until later. Up to and including Wednesday, April 3, a total of 156 messages was despatched, including one Press message of 120 words. The cable was repaired on the last-named date, and the ordinary method of transmission resorted to. The official at Mull reported, "I do not think an ordinary Morse circuit could have given better results." Curiously enough, he also reported that "the chief difficulty was the incessant screaming of the sea fowl," while "strong earth currents interfered very much." He (Mr. Preece) attributed the "screaming of the sea fowl" to a very different effect. Strange, mysterious, weird sounds were frequently heard on long lines of telegraph in the calm stillness of the night, but whether they were due to terrestrial or to cosmic causes remained to be discovered. The sun's photosphere when disturbed by spots might be subject to violent electrical storms, and those vast clouds of incandescent hydrogen that flamed up with terrible velocity might excite electrical oscillations through ethereal space of such a frequency as to influence our terrestrial circuits. We might thus hear on earth the electric storms of the sun. It was difficult (the lecturer concluded) to forecast the future of this new telegraphy, we had signalled in one direction only, but there was no reason why we should not duplicate and quadruplicate our messages. Each particular circuit had its own sympathetic frequency, and each telephone responded more energetically to one particular note than to any other, and we could take advantage of these two facts.

## *Bath Post Office in the Olden Time.*

**B**ATH, the city of Allen and Palmer, was, as Mr. Joyce tells us, a highly favoured town in "the nineties," one hundred years ago. It "was, outside London, the only one in the Kingdom which could boast of what, with any regard to the meaning of words, could be dignified by the name of a Post Office Establishment; and the Postmaster's salary was in excess of that which any other Postmaster received. This salary was £150 a year, and the establishment over which Ralph Allen's successor presided consisted of one clerk and three letter carriers. No other town had more than one letter carrier."

Readers of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* may like, perhaps, to know a little more than is conveyed by the historian's measured words about the economy of this most important provincial Post Office at the beginning of this century, and luckily the materials for reconstructing an outline of that old-world establishment still remain safe in the official archives.

The postage collected at Bath rose between 1777 and 1807 from £3,000 to £14,000 a year. The Postmaster's name was John Price: he had entered the Postal Service in London in 1763, he had become Postmaster of Portsmouth in 1773 and had been transferred to Bath in 1780; his reign covers the period of my story, and I shall tell how he was dismissed in 1811. The curtain rises on the misdoings of his office in 1801. Letters containing valuable property were being constantly lost in Bath and the district, and Mr. Price made vague and perfunctory reports. In fact, he didn't seem to care a fig for the losses, and showed an indifference which Freeling considered not to be "creditable to his feelings." So the Surveyor—Mr. Lott—was instructed to go over from Bridgwater and make personal enquiry into these "infamous crimes," the Postmasters

General—Lord Auckland and Lord Charles Spencer—thinking such a course to be both proper and necessary, though they feared Mr. Lott's exertions would not produce a satisfactory result.

Mr. Lott's field of enquiry lay within a small compass. The staff, which by that time consisted of three clerks and four letter carriers (one having been added in 1799), boarded and lodged with the Postmaster. To look after them he had then, or at any rate a few years later, a housekeeper and a cook, who was her niece. We hear of special "plumb" puddings on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and roast beef and an ordinary "plumbpudding" on another occasion.

All these people appeared to Mr. Lott to be of irreproachable character, and he retired from the search foiled. The Postmasters General feared, too truly, that the thief would be encouraged by a sense of impunity.

It is interesting to observe that at that time the "allowance" for a letter carrier was £28 12s. a year.

The next event of note happened shortly after the investigation, and this time the Postmaster was the culprit. A gentleman of fortune and respectability posted a letter and then wanted to have it back. The Postmaster refused, and the Postmasters General promptly described the refusal as "inconsistent both with the ordinary course of good offices among men and with that becoming attention which is due to the public from every individual employed in the Department." Mr. Price succeeded in establishing the purity of his motives to Freeling's satisfaction, but the case appeared so bad that that accomplished scribe confessed himself unable to explain it to the complainant, and Mr. Price had to do so himself.

An equally strange light is thrown on the method of doing business in those days by an incidental statement in these reports that the Postmaster of Pontypool kept an account of the address of every letter coming to his office, but one cannot linger over such matters as that while the Bath tragedy rushes to its end. And now some great folks come on the scene. Pitt, out of office, was staying down at Bath, amusing himself by playing "speculation" with Lady Malmesbury and her daughters. Lady Malmesbury was a family connexion of Lord Auckland, the Postmaster General, so, in spite of Lord Auckland's own scandalous behaviour to Pitt in 1801, one would have thought Mr. Price would have been careful how he dealt with such people. But no. Lady Malmesbury has to write to Lord Auckland to complain that Mr. Price has been "uncommonly



impertinent." He had refused change for a £1 note tendered by her servant, and had kept the letter for which it was intended to pay! The next complainant in the field was one of the Cannings. It was only about the delay of a letter from Shipston-on-Stour to Bath, but there is an interest in the address "*Bath turn at Oxford*," upon which the Postmaster, who doubtless understood circulation, observed that it might have been forwarded sooner through London.

Then we learn a little about re-direction. The easy-going Mr. Price would only despatch re-directed letters from Bath three or four times a week. On other days he kept them back! This discovery really staggered Freeling, who pointed out that the Postmaster was liable to an action.

But things went on in the same old style, and in March, 1804, the Postmasters General began to lose patience, and to threaten unutterable things. So Freeling wrote a fatherly letter to Mr. Price and asked for "a broad, unqualified, and manly assurance to My Lords the Postmasters General" that he would amend. By this appeal Freeling thought he had fulfilled his duty by Mr. Price "both as an individual and as their Lordships' chief officer."

There was no such manly assurance as might have been expected, but Mr. Price was let off with a scolding, and at once began to sin again. At the end of 1805 Pitt, with the gout, and with the "Austerlitz look" upon his face, was again at Bath, with Lord and Lady Mulgrave and Lord Hawkesbury. Mr. Price was specially instructed about their letters, and did not even take the trouble to acknowledge the instructions.

But he had not yet worn out the patience of his chiefs and he continued to flourish. The importance of his office and the policy of the Department are alike illustrated by an application made in 1807 for an additional letter carrier. We learn that in summer the London mails arrived at about 10 a.m., the delivery began before 11 a.m., and was finished at about 1 or 2 o'clock. In winter the mail was much heavier on account of the season, and did not arrive until about noon, and then took  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours to sort and deliver. This was not really bad business, for the box for the outgoing London mail did not close till 5. But the true reason for refusing an additional letter carrier was that the great increase of buildings at Bath was in the suburbs, and if the free delivery were extended to such places the Post Office would not know where to stop—an argument worthy of those days.

And now the curtain rises on the last act of the drama. No clue had been discovered to the perpetrator of the great thefts at Bath, and the scandal appears to have died down; in fact, the Bath Post Office was in the happy position of the places that have no history between 1807 and 1810.

But in 1810, on the 31st December, Messrs. Slack, of Bath, linen-drappers, posted a letter containing more than £170 in notes, besides divers bills, addressed to Messrs. Whitehead & Co., bankers in London, and on the 9th January, 1811, it reached the addressees through the twopenny post, *minus the money*. This is what had happened in the mean time. Soon after the letter was posted, Mr. Arthur Baily, who had been a clerk and letter carrier at Bath eight years before, and was now keeping the "Fox," a public house at Midford, looked in, as he often did, at the Bath Office, to lend a hand to the staff, and to share the "plumb" pudding. Being there, he pocketed the letter and shortly afterwards took a trip to London. Going for a walk in Leadenhall Street, he met a lady friend near the India House, and took her to Spink's, the jeweller in Gracechurch Street, changed one of the stolen notes, and did the handsome thing in the way of a watch and two rings, having first dropped the rifled letter into the twopenny post at Lombard Street. Then they took a coach and went half price to the boxes at Covent Garden theatre, and the next morning Mr. Baily went off home by coach from the "Swan with Two Necks," having doubtless enjoyed his trip. As ill-luck would have it, the numbers of the notes were known and stopped; a note was traced to Mr. Spink; Mr. Spink knew the lady, and the lady made no scruple about describing Mr. Baily, though she didn't know him by his true name. So descriptions were printed, and sent down to Bath. Mr. Price proceeded upon the comfortable provincial theory that "all the letters are stolen in that d—d office in London," and did not fret himself at all, but Mr. Baily—apparently out of bravado—affixed to his own public house a copy of the bill which described his own person very minutely and offered £100 reward for him. Mr. Slack, the sender of the lost letter, happened to take a walk to Midford, fell into conversation with the landlord of the "Fox," saw that he resembled the description, and, in short, the catastrophe came.

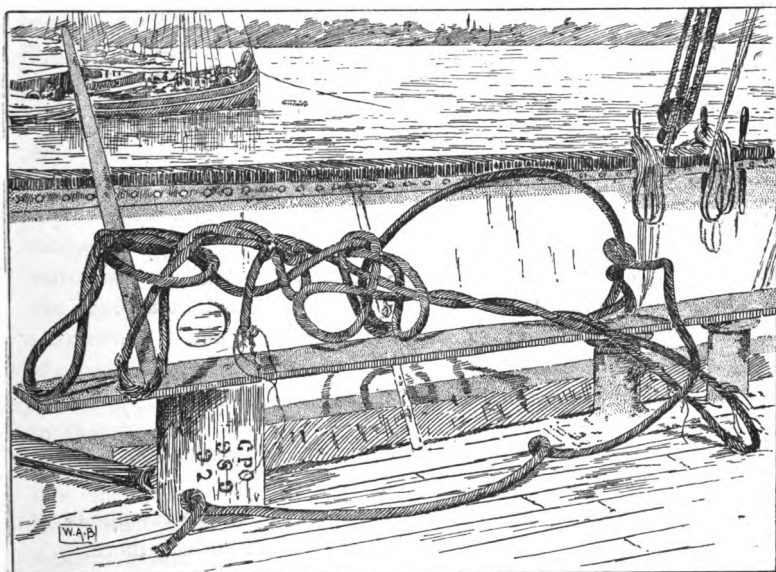
Mr. Baily was duly convicted of having, "with force and arms" and so forth, stolen the letter, and he was hanged for the crime at Ilchester, and buried at Bath at midnight in the presence of 2,000 people.

And then wrath fell upon Mr. Price, whose name had been taken in vain in Bath and Ilchester, and whose carelessness had, no doubt, been the cause of all the trouble. Freeling wrote a "*verbosa et grandis epistola*," in the shape of a minute, and the Postmasters General, Lord Sandwich and Lord Chichester, dismissed Mr. Price without hesitation, and would have taken legal proceedings against him if they had been able.

In vain did he come up to London to plead his cause, and in vain did the Marquis of Bath and all and sundry plead for him; the utmost the angry ministers would do was to record that they were "fully satisfied that no imputation had at any time fallen upon the honesty or integrity of Mr. Price."

Requiescat—with these words for his epitaph, and so farewell to the Bath Post Office in the olden time.

H. S. CAREY.



WHAT SOMETIMES HAPPENS TO A TELEGRAPH CABLE WHEN IT HANGS FROM A LIGHT SHIP.

## *In Praise of Philately.*

Maculis insignis et albo.—*Horace.*

“Obliterated, and in my album.”—*Free Translation.*



YOU ask me for the reason why I dote upon Philately ;  
 You gravely mispronounce it with the accent on the *e* ;  
 In future, please remember, you must make it rhyme  
 with Natalie,  
 Not Nellie, no, nor Phelie, if you'd keep your peace  
 with me.

The pleasure of collecting things is never strictly genuine,  
 Unless the things collected have no value of their own  
 To prejudice and bias you ; well, go for stamps, and *then* you win  
 The pure delight arrived at by philatelists alone.

What is the climax, I would ask, of perfect inutility ?  
 What the most inartistic object underneath the sun ?  
 What is the *ne plus ultra* of (to coin a phrase) “ nihility ” ?  
 A stamp (obliterated) romps in first, and takes the bun.


There is no science in that stamp, such as you get in botany,  
 There is less art about it than about a common pin,  
 And as for use or beauty, well, it simply hasn't got any,—  
 That's where the rationale of Philately comes in.

It's just because the article has none of these excrescences,  
 No beauty, art, or usefulness (as I observed before),  
 That it gives the true unqualified collector's joy, whose essence is  
 Collection for its own sweet sake, just that and nothing more.

LEO WOLFE.

## Some Annual Reports.

### I. THE UNITED STATES, 1894.

HE light heart of the average contributor to *St. Martin's-le-Grand* is apt to revolt against the task of reviewing a big black book crammed with tables and figures, and so the American annual report comes to trial before a prejudiced judge. But if he begins to read with malice he soon goes on to purr, with a complacent feeling that he helps to run a better and more enlightened machine in the old country. Perhaps his feeling is just, perhaps it isn't; but here are a few selections from the report for 1894, which may throw light on the question.

Finance comes first, and we find that in America "the receipts of ordinary postal revenue were actually less by 1 per cent. than for the preceding year." The excess of expenditure over receipts was 9½ millions of dollars in 1894; it is expected to be about 6 millions in 1895, and 4 millions in 1896. Now an English official, trained in the theories of Chancellors of the Exchequer and Select Committees, can hardly be otherwise than shocked at such a state of things, even though he sympathise cordially with the view that the Post Office "can not, and should not, stop to consider little economies. Its duties and obligations to the Public become at once intensified and enlarged. It must needs exert itself to the utmost to secure the best possible results in the way of celerity, accuracy, and security in the dispatch of the mails." This is good, but then even the eloquent writer goes on to say that "the best condition of Postal business—the condition from which the greatest general benefit to the country is derivable—is that in which there is enough revenue to provide for thorough and efficient administration without any charge whatever to the public Treasury." Which is better.

But what passes in the States for efficient administration? Turn to the "brief outline of policy," which the Postmaster General recommends, and see in the forefront "avoid expensive experiments like the postal telegraph, rural free delivery, etc."! Of course the American continent is not a little Island, for whose discovery the western giant "twirls the spotty globe," and we cannot expect in America a completeness such as ours, but still this outline of policy should take away the breath of all our own "reformers."

Then there is another question which comes actually first of all in the outline of policy. "Revise the law as to second class Mail Matter," and this is interpreted thus "my intention is to urge the withdrawal of low postage rates from the large class of pretended periodicals that are now improperly enjoying them; not only on account of the inherent propriety of that course but because I am almost hopeless of ever seeing the financial condition of the Department properly established until such withdrawal is brought about."

It is a lamentable story that follows about the wholesale abuse of the periodical post—lamentable especially to us, because we too on this side seem to have heard of "the bogus trade paper,—mainly a lot of advertisements—with a little worthless literary matter thrown in here and there to give the thing a semblance of genuineness."

But if this article is not also to grow like a "bogus trade paper" with a "disproportion—such as almost to stagger belief," we must hurry along out of these familiar grooves, and glance at the report of the new arrangements whereby Uncle Sam prints his own stamps. The third Assistant Postmaster-General is "happy to say that everything has been satisfactorily arranged, and the work is now proceeding without serious interruptions," at a saving of expense. This thing seems to have been put through in a very business like way: the Bureau of Engraving and Printing simply tendered against private firms, made the lowest bid, and got the contract. Shall we ever live to see Her Majesty's Stationery Office tender against Messrs. De la Rue?

A feature of the report is an historical article on the Postal Union. The American Post Office takes credit for having started the conception in 1862, and re-prints its letter of the 4th August of that year to Mr. Seward, then Secretary of State. For the delegates to the Congress of Washington in 1897 we are promised "that large hearted hospitality, which the Government and people of America know so well how to extend."

The article headed "Postal Telegraph" is interesting, the conclusion being that the Government of the Union "cannot afford at this time to establish a postal telegraph system." The comparison with this country, and the presentation of the whole subject is clear and well thought out. Still, we hesitate, with the experience of both systems before us, to subscribe to the notion that the State would be more liable than private companies to get into trouble on questions of local jealousy and undue preferences. Of course, when you are dealing with a federation of quasi-Sovereign States it may be so in a

sense which we cannot understand, but we should have thought that the central Government could hold the balance more true than a company.

Two matters are dealt with in this report which we put together in an outburst of thankfulness that we cannot show the like ; one is the Boycotting of Post Offices and the other is train-wrecking and obstruction of lines. You boycott a Post Office, apparently, if you have a grudge against the Postmaster, and you obstruct the line if you are on strike at Chicago.

By way of melancholy farewell to the report we quote this resigned sentence from the Superintendent of Foreign Mails. " Perhaps it may be well again to call attention to the fact that applications from the Postal Administrations of Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Norway, and New Zealand, for the establishment of the Parcels Post service between those countries and the United States, have been on file in this Department for several years."

We could wish that a tenth part of the ability which has gone to the compilation of the report had been, or could be, devoted to looking up that file. May we suggest that it will be an unsightly spectacle—as it stands—before the eyes of the congress of 1897.

## II. INDIA, 1893-4.

THE Post Office report is worthy of the high reputation of the Government of India for the manufacture of State papers. One is unwilling to say that one's own department could not put out such a work, but one has little difficulty in saying that, as a matter of fact, it does not. It is not only that the Indian report seems so clear and complete, nor is it only that it seems less perfunctory than ours ; but there is about it the stamp of a single intelligence, and an absence of the note of compilation, which suggest a governing mind instead of a governing body. How far external reports like this would be read by ourselves and our colleagues if they were made more generally accessible, we do not know ; perhaps the Post Office Library Committee might consider the question, and do its little best to cultivate a taste for such things.

The report does not lend itself at all to summary, and the present reviewer limits his task to a random gleaning. Thus he notes special postal services and offices provided in the Kuram Valley and for the military posts at Kajuri Kach and Jandula beyond the Gomal Pass, and a temporary line, with camp offices, to accompany the

23rd Pioneers for its march and road operations from Abbotabad to Chilas, through the Kagan Valley, and over the Babusar Pass.

The P. and O. distinguishes itself as usual, the mail steamers arriving on all occasions in advance of the contract time ; and so we pass to more domestic matters.

In all India, although there are 10,387 post offices and 26,909 letter boxes, there is only one post office for every 145 square miles, and only a single letter box for 56 square miles. Central India has only one office for 81,895 persons and one letter box for every 51,853 persons, the averages for the whole of India being a post office for every 27,462 and a letter box for every 10,600 of the population.

But then these figures, dreadful as they look, lose their sting when we read that there is a letter box for every 447 and a Post Office for every 1,159 persons *who can read and write*.

The Indian statistician understands the use of comparative figures, and so the tables shewing the amount of correspondence, etc., are exceptionally good. The great Districts are given separately, and contrasted, and the reasons for variation are conjectured.

These statistics are pleasantly sandwiched with something historical. We read that the "Mulki" post of the Kumaon Division has been abolished, and we learn that this "Mulki," post was an outgrowth of the ancient obligations of the landholders of the division to convey official correspondence, and had developed into an exceptional and dangerous system under which unregistered local correspondence was carried in unsealed bags or bundles open to search by every traveller and villager !

In the article on Savings Banks there is a sentence which is of much interest to us just now, and although we naturally cannot argue with much confidence from India to England, we quote : "It was widely notified in the last quarter of the year that the rate of interest would from the 1st April, 1894, be reduced from  $3\frac{3}{4}$  to  $3\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., but the notification had a very slight effect in reducing the normal rate of increase in the number of Savings Bank accounts." We find that 90 per cent. of the total number of accounts were held by natives of the Country.

The value-payable system, known here as the cash-on-delivery system, is an item for which, of course, we look out specially. And we find the old story of centralization. "Two-fifths of the entire business of the year was transacted in the Bengal circle, and practically the whole business of that circle originated in Calcutta. Out of a total of 644,742 articles sent by the value-payable post

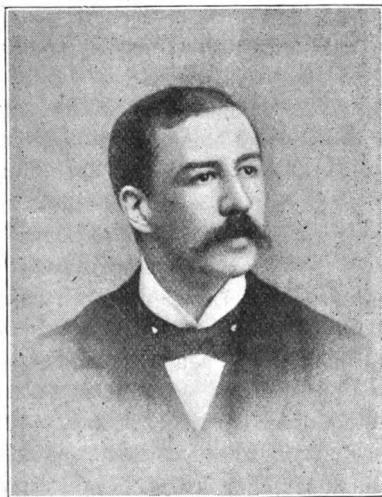


in the whole of the Bengal circle, 619,786 were posted at the Calcutta General Post Office, and its town sub-offices." The moral is evident. The paragraph on complaints from the public is noteworthy. It begins thus: "It is natural when a letter miscarries between two persons having friendly or business relations with each other that it should be assumed at first that the Post Office was at fault; but the experience of the past year, as of previous years, shows that the assumption is more often wrong than right." So say all of us. And then the Indian report goes on to give instances of the strange proceedings of the public which bear out the general assertion.

It is time to wind up this notice, and we are glad to do so by chronicling a good-sized revenue surplus on the general account.

### III.—STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1894.

HERE we find a paralysis of business with China caused by the Plague, and an account of the system of disinfecting mails. "Every article was pierced through, and thoroughly fumigated over sulphur burners for two hours."



MR. NOEL TROTTER, POSTMASTER-GENERAL, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

It seems that the staff at Singapore has been heavily overworked in the past, and the appointment of four extra clerks has now had

such an effect that an improvement in the physique of the officers concerned is observable, which is highly satisfactory.

As the revenue for 1894 was in excess of that for 1893 by \$51,467, and as there was a balance to the good of \$40,291, it is evident that the Postal Department is in a very flourishing condition.

We have much pleasure in giving a portrait of Mr. Noel Trotter, who has now been appointed Postmaster General of the Straits Settlements after having acted in that capacity for some time. His first official appointment was that of Postmaster of Penang in 1880.

#### IV. THE CAPE COLONY, 1894.

"PROGRESS" needs must be the motto of the country that is guided by Mr. Rhodes, and the report of the Postmaster-General of the Cape of Good Hope gives ample evidence of the progressive spirit in all matters postal. Here is a brief resumé of some of the principal achievements of the past year.

Sixty-two new Post Offices have been established, bringing the total number up to 797.

The extension of the Travelling Post Office Service, upon which we commented when reviewing last year's report (Vol. III p. 259), is again noticeable and we learn that the "large and rapid increase of mail matter carried by the daily trains has proved that on certain nights of the week the vans built for this service some ten years ago are fast becoming obsolete, and altogether too small and inconvenient for the increased work, and it will in the near future be absolutely necessary to withdraw them from the service and to introduce larger and more conveniently constructed sorting tenders." The sections of railway upon which the T.P.O. Service now operates are as follows: Cape Town to Port Elizabeth, Zwartkops to Uitenhage, Middelburg Road to Stormberg, and Naauwpoort to Norvalspont; from the latter point, the Transvaal T. P. O. extends to Johannesburg.

The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post has been extended to Samoa, Tonga, and Raratonga (Cook Islands), to British New Guinea and German New Guinea, and is now in operation to almost every place of importance in the civilised world.

As an instance of the rapid growth and importance of the Foreign Parcel Post, we find that the total number of parcels received from the United Kingdom during 1894 was 51,052, as compared with 36,895 in 1893, an increase of 14,157.

The 1st January, 1895, should be a red letter day to our Colonial friends, for on that date the Cape Colony entered into the Universal Postal Union. The immediate result of this change was a reduction in postage rates with Foreign Countries as follows :—

Class	Old Rate	New Rate
Single Post Cards .....	1½d.	1d.
Reply Post Cards .....	3d.	2d.
Newspapers.....	2d. per 4 oz.	½d. per 4 oz.
Books and Samples .....	2d. „ 2 „	1d. „ 2 „
Commercial Papers .....	{ Same as Books, except that the minimum charge is 2½d. }	

On the 1st of August, 1894, a tri-weekly exchange of mails overland was inaugurated between the Cape Colony and Delagoa Bay, and on the 1st of February this year the service became a daily one in both directions.

As regards telegraphs, we are glad to see that Mr. French is still fighting for the reduction of the Inland and Inter-Territorial Tariff. It was proposed, as far back as 1889, that, instead of the tariff being one shilling for ten words and sixpence for every additional five words, the rate should be altered to one shilling for twelve words and a penny for each additional word. The proposed reduction was favourably entertained in the following year by the Governments of the Colony, Natal, British Bechuanaland, and the Orange Free State, but the Government of the South African Republic declined to adopt it on the grounds that it might lead to a loss of revenue. Unfortunately, Article 8 of the South African Telegraph Convention stipulates that no change in the tariff shall be made without the consent of all the parties to the Convention. The consent of the Transvaal having all along been withheld, it has been impossible thus far to bring the proposed amended tariff into force. We hope the Transvaal—we beg pardon, the South African Republic—will see the error of its ways and repent.

The working of the British South African Company's telegraphs, which was placed in the hands of the Cape Town Post Office on the 1st July, 1893, “has been the object of much attention owing to the rapid succession of events in the company's territory. A notable extension of the system has been that which brought Bulawayo into

telegraphic communication. This was effected by extending the line from Tati, distant  $108\frac{1}{2}$  miles; and, owing to the vigour with which the work was pushed on, notwithstanding many difficulties incidental to the position and nature of the country, Bulawayo was reached on the 9th July last. During the year, also, considerable progress was made with the line from Bulawayo to Charter, which was, in fact, completed last month. This places Salisbury in direct communication with Bulawayo, and forms a valuable alternative communication with the Colony and elsewhere."

Under the heading of "Applications made to the Department for other than Postal Information" (the words have a familiar sound!) the Report devotes a couple of paragraphs to the comedy and tragedy of life. We quote *in extenso*.—"Numerous applications for information to be furnished by the Department on the most varied subjects continue to be received from all parts of the world. Many of these applications relate to missing friends and relatives, or seek advice as to the best advertising medium, but one of the letters received from the United States may be quoted at length as a specimen of what is expected of the Department. The letter reads as follows:—

Arrizona Territory,  
North America.

Mr. Postmaster, Kind Sir, I would Like very mutch for you to give me some infomation of that country and whother or not it is a suitle country for a poor man of my occupation  
cowpunching  
so it would greatly oblige me if you would give me the ful detail of That country.

Yours most Respectfully

The applicant was referred to the Agent-General for the Colony in London.

Another letter was received during December from an Armenian, evidently in an influential position, asking for details as to the conditions of immigration to the Cape, the agricultural prospects of the country, as well as numerous other questions, and stating that, owing to the conditions of life under Turkish rule, himself and a large number of his fellow-Christians were anxious to leave their native soil. The letter stated *inter alia* that stray dogs in the streets were treated by the Turks with greater kindness than were members of the Christian community in Armenia."

## *With the Benevolent Society at Edinburgh.*



APPROACH my annual task of chronicling the proceedings of the United Kingdom Postal and Telegraph Service Benevolent Society's yearly Conference with some misgivings and searchings of heart. In former years I have served the Society whole-heartedly and I have gone through everything that is expected of a delegate without a murmur and with no attempt to shirk duty. But this year I was neither faithful nor whole-hearted. I did not attend the Smoking Concert although I was in Edinburgh: I ran away from the Annual Meeting before it was over: I was not abusive or personal in my speech at the Banquet: I declined to be photographed with the other delegates, and indeed, whenever I saw a delegate approaching me in Princes Street, I crossed to the other side, blushing and steeped in confusion: and I went on no excursions with my colleagues. It was in all seriousness an unfortunate thing for me that the meeting this year was in Edinburgh. My attention was constantly being diverted from the question of the relief of the widow and the orphan to that side of life of which the City of Edinburgh itself is so great an inspirer. Mr. Matthew Arnold said of Oxford, "Steeped in sentiment as she lies, spreading her gardens to the moonlight, and whispering from her towers the last enchantments of the Middle Age." As much, many of us are willing to say of Edinburgh, and some of us perhaps a great deal more, especially if the sentiment and romance which the city inspires of itself are with us there also in our relations with—say, one of her sons or daughters. If it is difficult to discuss a reserve fund, or the decrease of the levy from fourpence to threepence under the shadow of the Castle, it is surely infinitely

more so when you know that sentiment and romance are waiting for you outside, in the shape of an idealised nominee. And though I was on the whole faithless to the trust the electors of the Savings Bank had reposed in me I am not afraid of their disapproval. With most of those electors I have worked and toiled and agitated and conspired these twenty years. I have sighed with them, laughed with them—been happy with them, and times without number I have trifled with them, from Controller to Boy-Copyist. I am still tolerated; even the Postman's Federation has forgiven me: Mr. Maggs, of Bristol and I are on speaking terms with each other: Mr. Asher, of Carmarthen, has buried the hatchet, and Mr. Rowse, of London, is on nodding terms with me.

The Annual Meeting this year was as complete a contrast to that of last year as could be conceived. The discussions were orderly; the rulings of the chair were religiously obeyed; courtesy and good manners were displayed by all. It would be ungenerous to attribute too much of this change to the absence of my friend Mr. Maggs. Hitherto, it has been impossible to conceive of an Annual Meeting without Mr. Maggs, for he has never before given us a chance to miss him. But this year, for reasons best known to herself, Bristol declined to send her redoubtable delegate to the Meeting, and the effect of Bristol's decision was very noticeable. "There was a great calm." A vote of thanks to Bristol would have been a graceful ending to the day's proceedings, but nobody had the courage to move the resolution. So difficult was it to realise the absence of Mr. Maggs, that every now and again one half expected to see his familiar form rising to protest against this or that, or anything that was hall-marked with reason and common sense. And, with the exception of Mr. Rowse, the rest of the fiery spirits of last year's Meeting were absent, Mr. Rowse himself showing by his share in this year's proceedings how much good and useful work can be done by a delegate who is fair and reasonable. Mr. Asher, of Carmarthen, was absent on account of illness, and we all missed his strong personality, his vigorous blows in debate, and his generous, impulsive disposition. We missed, too, Mr. Braid, of Glasgow, who always brought to bear upon our debates the clear common sense of a Scotchman, combined with kindly sympathy and high character. Mr. Braid has been very ill, and at Edinburgh, where we had hoped to meet him on his native heath, we all wished him in spirit a speedy recovery. Mr. Boughton is another familiar figure at our gatherings who

was also absent from the same cause, and who was similarly missed. There were, however, more than the usual number of new faces, and of course many old stagers did not fail to put in an appearance. Mr. Belcher of London, Mr. Fawcett of Leeds, Mr. Wilson of Liverpool, Mr. Pounds of London, Mr. Stone of Leeds, Mr. Lewis of Birmingham, all helped to give a familiar appearance to the Edinburgh Annual Meeting. Mr. Newlands, of Edinburgh, proved a very capable and ready Chairman, and his conduct in the Chair, no doubt, assisted in smoothing the proceedings considerably. The alterations which were carried this year consisted of (1) a reform in the constitution of the Society, which is now "a Committee consisting of six Members, five in Great Britain, not more than one of whom shall belong to the same town, and one in Ireland and the Central Office," and (2) the substitution of biennial for annual meetings. All the other proposals on the agenda paper were defeated, including a proposal for a reserve fund from G.P.O. (Major), the reduction of the levy from fourpence to threepence, proposed by N.W.D.O. (No. 1) and S.E.D.O. (London), and the institution of a Gratuity and Endowment Branch. Mr. Sutch was re-elected Central Secretary, and the new Members of the Committee are Mr. Newlands, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Hocter, of Belfast.

The Banquet in the Masonic Hall in the evening was a brilliant and unqualified success. Our guests included some of the most distinguished citizens of Edinburgh. The Post Office Secretary for Scotland, Mr. Mitford, was unfortunately absent on account of illness, and Mr. Thomson took his place in the Chair. He proved an excellent Chairman, "to the manner born," and above all, he looked the part. Mr. Mahon, Surveyor, proposed "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," to which the Right Hon. J. H. A. Macdonald, C.B., responded. Mr. Newlands proposed "The Postmaster-General, "The City of Edinburgh" was entrusted to my care, and Baillie Macpherson and Mr. John Herdman replied. "The Society" was spoken to by Mr. Lewis of Birmingham, and the Central Secretary, Mr. Sutch, found something fresh to say to a toast he must almost be wearied of responding to. Mr. Hyde, of the Edinburgh Post Office, proposed "The Press," and Mr. Cooper of "The Scotsman," made in reply the wittiest and most brilliant speech of the evening, Mr. Wilson, of Liverpool, gave "The Guests," and Mr. John Anderson replied. The Chairman proposed "Our Guests," and Dr. Douglas, and Mr. Conacher, the Chairman of the North British Railway Co., replied. Mr. Belcher

fittingly praised the Chairman in the concluding toast. The musical arrangements were excellent, and both the Quartette Party and the Band were much in demand.

I have in former years been attacked because of the way in which I have sometimes noticed the personal idiosyncrasies of certain of the delegates. Some men have even gone so far as to say that I have occasionally brought myself within the meshes of the law of libel. It is only fair to myself to say that the persons who I am supposed to have libelled have never themselves complained: they have simply mended their ways and have said nothing. This year I have a bone to pick with Mr. Belcher. Mr. Belcher was once a very nice man, an excellent companion, and a good conversationalist. In an unfortunate moment for his friends he became a Member of the Committee of the Civil Service Supply Association, and the general result on his character is very depressing. At the hotel I poured out tea for our little breakfast party, and when I asked him if his tea was to his taste, he replied oracularly and in his severest Store manner, "Inferior China." I took him out for a walk in order to rouse him, and to get him out of this terrible groove, and he was sad and depressed all the time, except when he happened to be opposite any ladies' tie and ribbon shop. My previous experience of him is that this was the last kind of shop he would be interested in, and I could not for the moment account for his excitement over feminine hosiery. I, too, hardly thought it respectable for a Principal Clerk to show interest in such things before a junior, much less to continue, as was the case with Belcher, asking that same junior his opinion of the various mentionables and unmentionables exhibited in the window. He saw my perplexity and said sadly, "It is my line just now: I am on that Committee." He persuaded me to go into a shop to buy a blouse for him to take back as a sample, but they asked me for the size, and when I referred the matter to him outside the shop, he said I was a fool and the matter dropped. It was sad indeed to see a man of such great powers walking about in a dream in the historic City of Edinburgh, with everything around him suggesting high and inspiring thoughts, and yet all the time absorbed, not in history, or romance, or philosophy, but in ladies' hosiery, ribbons and laces. We can only hope he will shortly be moved to another Committee.

I think the charm of the beautiful City of Edinburgh was felt deeply by every one of our delegates. The influence of the



surrounding architecture and natural scenery chastened and subdued the more fiery spirits. The weather was glorious, and no city pays for good weather like Edinburgh. Princes Street approximates more closely to a Paris boulevard than any other thoroughfare in the United Kingdom. It seems always *en fête*, and the visitors and passers-by are bent on pleasure rather than work. Few cities combine more beautifully the new with the old, and in spite of the North British Railway, no city has suffered less in appearance at the sacrilegious hands of the modern architect. I have visited Edinburgh often before but my previous experiences have been obtained in what I will call normal Edinburgh weather, which is ghastly and cruel. This year the sun shone on the modern Athens; the mists only slightly enveloped her during my stay, and the wind moderated its strength in Princes Street. As a consequence I saw more of the city than I have ever done on my previous visits, but *not* in company with the delegates. I explored the Old Town: I found my way on to Arthur's Seat: I went to Portobello and Newhaven: I drove to the Forth Bridge: and I spent a never-to-be-forgotten day in the Kingdom of Fife. How could I do anything else but praise Edinburgh in such circumstances? And yet the question arises in my case as it does in that of others, "Do we do anything in this world disinterestedly and whole-heartedly?" My affection for the Society has this year clearly been of an extremely selfish and interested kind. Does the personal estimate come into play even in my love for Edinburgh? Is the fact, prosaic enough to others, that I am changing my nominee, and that the new nominee is a native of Edinburgh, sufficient to account for my enthusiasm? I leave these conundrums to my readers with whom I have trifled so often, and who will, I am afraid, scarcely believe me even now when I say I am serious, and when I declare that, apart from the aforesaid idealised nominee, Edinburgh is as uninteresting to me as any other city, even as, for example, the City of Westminster.

EDWARD BENNETT.

Savings Bank Department, G.P.O.

## *The P. and O. Company.*



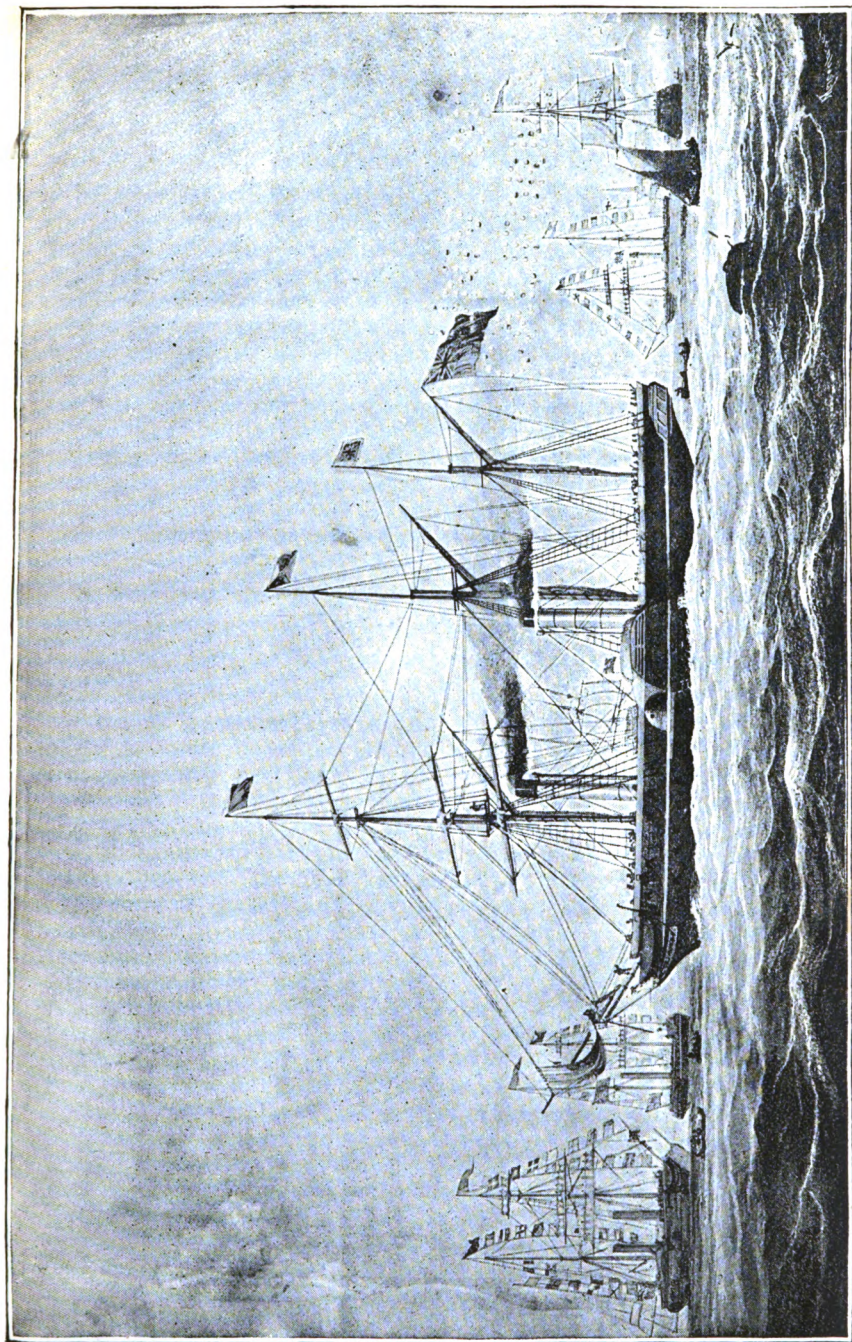
VISITORS to the recent Naval Exhibition can hardly fail to remember the elegant pavilion erected by this Company in the grounds near the lake, in which were to be found models of their principal vessels and of the Suez Canal, as well as a large number of beautiful photographs of the scenery and architecture of countries with which the Company carries on business. Many no doubt took away with them souvenirs of their visit in the shape of copies of an illustrated pamphlet containing a short history of the Company.

Founded in 1837, under the name of the Peninsular Company, its first important contract was entered into on the 22nd August, 1837, when in return for a subsidy of £29,000 a year it agreed to run a monthly Mail service from Falmouth to Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz, and Gibraltar. Up to that time the Lisbon Mail had been carried by sailing packet, while the Gibraltar service had been performed by an irregular Government steamer.

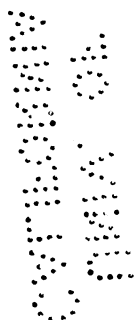
“The service next undertaken by the Peninsular Company was the extension of their line from Gibraltar to Malta and Alexandria. The mails were then conveyed to Egypt thus: by the Peninsular steamer to Gibraltar, then onwards by a small Government steamer from Gibraltar to Malta, and thence to Alexandria by another Government vessel of equally limited tonnage and power. The consequence was that the transmission of the mails from England to Egypt occupied from three weeks to a month, and by the time a mail reached Bombay by the East India Company’s steamers, which then plied more or less irregularly between that port and Suez, nearly two months must have elapsed from the date of its leaving England. An accelerated service was attempted by Government steamer between Marseilles and Malta, but it was not found to dovetail satisfactorily with the long sea route, and there was at the time some fear of the Indian correspondence being tampered with on its way through France. The Government of the day therefore determined to have a service by powerful steamers between England and Alexandria, and applied to the managers of the Peninsular Company to furnish a plan for this new undertaking.”

Having obtained a contract for £34,200, the Company built two vessels of 1600 tons and 450 h. p. to perform the service, which began in 1839.

In the following year the Directors determined to extend their operations to India, and the name of the Company was then changed



“HINDUSTAN” LEAVING SOUTHAMPTON, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1842, TO OPEN THE INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.



to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. The first steamer of the Company to leave for India was the "Hindustan" and the scene of her departure from Southampton on the 24th September, 1842, forms the subject of our illustration.

"Although the 'Hindustan,' 'Bentinck,' and 'Precursor' were started on their career between Calcutta, Madras, Ceylon, Aden, and Suez, it is clear that the Directors of the Company entertained the intention, whenever they found themselves fit to cope with the work, of establishing a mail service with Bombay, as being the nearest port to Great Britain. Accordingly, in the end of 1843, or early in 1844, they laid proposals before the Government to undertake a monthly line between Suez and Bombay by their large steamers at a saving of £30,000 a year, in comparison with the ascertained cost of the irregular service then performed by the steamers of the East India Company. But for some reason the Directors of the East India Company were most jealous of any interference with that particular line of communication, which they insisted on retaining in their own hands, and did in fact retain down to 1854."

In these circumstances the Directors determined to strike out for themselves in an entirely new direction, and in 1844 they entered into a contract to establish a monthly line of mail packets from Ceylon to Singapore and Hong Kong.

"It must be remembered that not a single coaling station existed along the whole route from Suez to Calcutta and Hong Kong, and that every ton of coal had to be sent out from this country by sailing ships. At many ports there were no markets for provisions in the European sense, and how important and difficult must have been the duty of storing these large passenger steamers under such circumstances can only be fully understood by those who have had experience of similar work. There was practically no hotel accommodation on the route. At some places, such as Suez and Aden, there was not even fresh water. Arsenals and docks for the repair of the fleet had also to be provided, first at Calcutta and then at Bombay, where the Company's China steamers had their headquarters. To have these requirements supplied, in such a way that comfort and even luxury prevailed for those who travelled by this new route, and to render this distant navigation as safe as science and skill could make it, was a work of a comprehensive order, the successful accomplishment of which must rank among the industrial achievements of an industrial age. But perhaps the most arduous task of all was the organisation of the Egyptian transit, for the large traffic, which followed the establishment of the Company's eastern lines. The Overland Route, as it is called, between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea is as old as history. To Waghorn belongs the credit of having inaugurated this route, in a modern sense. But when the P. & O. Company entered upon the scene, the arrangements were in their merest infancy, and although the practicability of

conveying mails and passengers through Egypt had been demonstrated, no appliances existed for traffic purposes on any considerable scale, while those which did exist were of the rudest kind.

"Those who have only known the Overland Route by being whirled across the Isthmus of Suez on rails, can form little idea of the picturesqueness and discomfort of the journey in pre-railway days. After landing at Alexandria, the first part of the transit was by the Mahmoudieh Canal, the great work of Mahomet Ali, for connecting Alexandria with the Nile, by means of which the produce of the Delta was diverted to that port from Rosetta, the former emporium of trade. This journey of 48 miles was accomplished in a canal boat which was towed by a steam tug at the rate of five miles an hour. From Atfeh, where the canal debouches from the Nile, steamers started for Cairo, a distance of 120 miles, and accomplished the trip in about sixteen hours. Passengers had then to remain the night in Cairo, and sometimes even two or three days. From Cairo the route lay across the desert for 90 miles, and the journey was performed in two-wheeled omnibuses, holding six persons, drawn by four mules or horses, the road being merely a cutting in the sand, which in the night time was not distinguishable from the desert itself. Indeed it was a very frequent occurrence for the horses to stray into the desert when the driver supposed he was in the middle of the road, the mistake being only discovered when the beasts were floundering in a bank of sand, from which they were often not extricated until other horses were brought to the rescue from the nearest station.

"A journey of some eighteen hours under these circumstances could hardly be called enjoyable, even when the tedium was relieved by drinking innumerable cups of coffee at the various stations where horses were changed. Still the experience was one which impressed the imagination in no ordinary degree. A moonlight journey was most striking. The seemingly boundless expanse, the silence only broken by the voice of the driver and the muffled sound of the horses' feet (which seemed somehow to accentuate the sense of stillness), the caravans loaded with mails and baggage passing with silent and stealthy tread; the whitened bones of countless troops of camels which had died in harness, glistening in the moonlight; then the sudden daybreak, the solitary Bedouin family mounted aloft on their desert ship, the mirage so wonderful when first seen—these and other impressions remain indelible in the minds of people who knew the Overland Route as it was."

The transport of cargo by primitive methods was almost more difficult than that of passengers, more especially between Cairo and Suez, a distance of nearly 100 miles, over which every package had to be carried on camels' backs. Many thousands of these animals were employed in connection with this work, which embraced not only the transport of mails and cargo, but of water from the Nile for the several desert stations and for Suez, and even of *coal for the steamers in the Red Sea.*

In 1859 the railway across the isthmus was open and the transit became more comfortable and rapid, if less picturesque. As early as 1847 endeavours were made to extend the service to Australia, but without success. In 1851, however, as the result of a Parliamentary Committee, tenders were invited for a fortnightly service with India and China, while an express service from Marseilles to Malta was to run in connection with it and a line once every two months from Singapore to Sydney. This contract was obtained by the P. & O. for a sum of £199,600 per annum; but its performance was interrupted by the Crimean War, the service of which absorbed many of the Company's steamers. In the very midst of the war, however, they took on the work of the Suez and Bombay mail, the East India Company having at last given it up.

In March, 1859, the Company began a new monthly mail service to Australia *via* Ceylon, while at about the same time a mail service was established to the Mauritius and the China line was extended to Shanghai.

In February, 1868, a new contract began for a weekly service to Bombay and a fortnightly service to China. Under this tender the amount to be paid varied according to the profits of the Company which was obliged in certain cases to submit its books to the scrutiny of accountants appointed by the Post Office. Within a very short time this led to difficulties and the terms were altered once more to a fixed annual sum.

The next event of importance was the opening of the Suez Canal.

"It is strange to look back now to the incredulity which prevailed in England as to the prospect of that undertaking ever reaching fruition. Its success was generally disbelieved in up to the very day when a fleet of vessels steamed through its course from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and the most that would-be wise people ventured to admit was that it might become a channel for the transport of merchandise in barges, in competition with the Egyptian Railway. The fallacy of these prognostications was soon made to appear, and the Suez Canal quickly revolutionised the maritime commerce of the East.

"The flood of tonnage which began to pour through the Canal soon produced a disastrous effect on the income of the P. & O. Company, which had hitherto been derived from a tariff, which though of an exceptional character, was quite consistent with the exceptional nature of the service carried on by means of the Overland Route with its transshipments and heavy charges. The loss of revenue soon became so serious, in consequence of the low rates which canal steamers accepted, that ruin seemed to stare the Company in the face unless it also adopted the Canal route, and built



ships which, while carrying on the mail contract, would, at the same time, be capable of competing for traffic under the new conditions which had come into play. The Messageries Imperiales had, however, no difficulty in obtaining the permission of its Government to adopt the Canal route, and did adopt it at once, but it was altogether a different matter with the English Company.

"The Post Office utterly opposed the Canal, and the Government of the day declined to allow that route to be adopted, unless, at all events, the Company consented to submit to a large reduction of its subsidy. Under the peculiar circumstances, and seeing that its revenue had fallen off by something like half-a-million, the Company naturally declined to acquiesce in that proposal. Thereupon ensued a curious sort of duel between the Post Office and the Company. On the one hand, the Company offered to accelerate the mails if the Canal route was adopted, by giving an extra speed at sea, and to deliver the mails in Bombay and China in 24 hours, and in Australia in 41 hours, less time than they were bound to do under their contract, which had some eight or nine years still to run. The Post Office with a certain degree of reluctance at length agreed to accept the Company's proposals, provided the latter would abate £30,000 per annum from the amount of its subsidy. The Directors declined the ruinous proposal, and proceeded to fight the question by sending their steamers through the Canal after landing the mails at Alexandria, and picking up these identical mails at Suez, a proceeding which the Post Office had no power to prevent, but which was regarded with the utmost disfavour. This state of tension was prolonged for nearly two years, till at last an arrangement was come to by which the Company was allowed to employ the Canal route in consideration of relinquishing the sum of £20,000 per annum.

"Meanwhile the disagreement between the Australian Colonies on the question of the mail route had become marked. New South Wales was entirely in favour of a Pacific line, while Victoria was equally resolute to secure the continuance of the Red Sea route. The decision came to by the Imperial Government, therefore, was to allow the Colonies to arrange for their own mail services, and to undertake, as its contribution to the same, the free conveyance of mails to Ceylon on the one side and to San Francisco on the other. The P. & O. Company's contract, which had been in force since 1866, on a two years' notice, was accordingly terminated in 1873 and Victoria stepped into the breach and offered the Company a contract on the condition *inter alia* that Melbourne should be the headquarters of the line, and that the mail steamers should not proceed to Sydney. Although under this arrangement the mail steamers were allowed to proceed no further than Melbourne, the Company at once arranged for a continuance of its service to Sydney by means of a branch line."

On the 1st February, 1880, two important changes were introduced; the Southampton route was entirely abandoned, all mails being sent



*viâ* Brindisi, and the Australian mail became a fortnightly service. The mails for New South Wales once more travelled by this route and the mail steamers again went on to Sydney.

"The list of steamers built by the Company is almost an epitome of the progress of steamship building during half-a-century, a period practically coeval with steam navigation in distant seas. There is a wide contrast between the paddlewheel steamer of three or four hundred tons, with its clumsy side lever engines, and boilers carrying a pressure of probably not more than 10 lbs. to the square inch, and the vessels of 6,500 tons which were added to the fleet last year, with their triple expansion engines and boilers, carrying a pressure of 160 lbs. with greater safety than the 10-lb. boilers of old times. But it is not necessary to go back half-a-century to note the progress of naval architecture. Nothing, for instance, can be more marked in recent years than the increasing number of large ships in every trade. When this Company built the 'Himalaya,' thirty-four years ago (a vessel still doing service in Her Majesty's Navy as a transport), she was found to be too large for the commercial work of that day, and the Directors were glad to sell her to the Admiralty. Her tonnage is, however, little more than half the tonnage of the 'Victoria.' In 1870 the average tonnage of the Company's ships was 2,058 tons, while in the present year the average is close on 4,000 tons.

"A similar development in size of ships is common throughout the mercantile marine, but the highly economical results obtained by ocean steamers, in point of working, is not to be measured by the mere increase in their size. The introduction of what is known as the compound engine 20 years ago marked a revolution in the annals of ocean steaming, and the improvement then commenced has been steadily carried on. It is hardly too much to say that a pound of coal now does four or five times the amount of work which it did previous to the era of high and low pressure machinery. The form of ships has been improved. It is no longer considered necessary to have hollow lines and a great rise of floor for the attainment of a moderate speed as formerly was the case. The chief triumph of the naval architect has been, however, in the more scientific adaptation of materials in order to ensure strength combined with lightness, and also in the quality of workmanship, which is enormously superior to what it once was, so that ships can now carry, per register ton, largely in excess of what it would at one time have been thought prudent. The employment of steel in shipbuilding and engineering has greatly furthered this end, but the result of these improvements is that weight such as iron and steel materials are now carried from London to China and Australia *at a rate which averages  $\frac{1}{35}$  of a penny per ton per mile.* Compared with this result the lowest mineral rate on the cheapest English railway will appear almost exorbitant."

## *London's Posts before Penny Postage.*

**T**HE headquarters of the Department are so associated in our minds with St. Martin's-le-Grand, that it is difficult to realise that the connection between them is not of very long standing. Yet there must be many now living who can remember the removal of the General Post Office from Lombard Street to its present site, and the improvements in the thoroughfare and neighbourhood which formed part of the same scheme. Many years before the new Post Office was actually projected, the inconvenient situation and inadequate site of the old Office had become a public grievance ; whilst, if we may judge from a petition to Parliament in 1809, the condition of St. Martin's-le-Grand left much to be desired. In their petition, the inhabitants of the Ward of Aldersgate complained in quaint but forcible language that "St. Martin's-le-Grand is so extremely narrow that the lives of His Majesty's subjects are constantly in great danger, and accidents often happen by the frequent stoppages of carriages, as the same will not admit of their passing each other, and great disturbances arise thereby," and, as regards the General Post Office, they urged that the Government should "promote the public convenience in a most essential manner by placing this grand National Establishment in the centre of the Metropolis." The scheme was taken up in 1815 by the City Corporation and the Post Office ; and, with the expedition characteristic of public bodies, it was brought to completion within a period of 14 years, the new building being opened on the 23rd of September, 1829.

This date marks a turning point in Post Office history ; and the organisation of the General Post Office at that time is well worthy of study as affording an insight into the postal system during the mail-coach period which was then passing away.

The Postal Service of London in 1829 was carried on in three distinct Departments : the Inland Office, the Foreign Office, and the Two-penny Post Department.

The Two-penny Post Department performed the local service, and its operations extended for about 10 miles round, this area being divided into a town and a country district.

The town district was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south, and 7 miles from east to west ; but the boundary, as will be seen from the accompanying map, was curiously irregular. It touched the Serpentine on the west, and extended to Blackwall in the east ; but it did not reach to the Angel in the north, nor to the New Kent Road in the south. It crossed the Goswell Road about a quarter of a mile south of the Angel, and, skirting the now almost forgotten Bagnigge Wells, it passed along the New Road (Euston Road) and took in the greater part of Regent's Park. The District was divided into the Westminster and London Divisions, which were served from the Head Offices at St. Martin's-le-Grand and Gerrard Street, the boundary line being Chancery Lane. There were six deliveries and collections, commencing at 8, 10, 12, 2, 4, and 7 o'clock ; and riders maintained communication between the Head Offices in connection with each collection.

The Country district was divided into nine Rides, each containing several Sorting Offices, from which deliveries and collections were made at 8 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. The accompanying map shews these Rides, and also the villages from which the local letter-carriers worked. At most of these there were Sorting Offices, but in some instances two Walks were attached to a single Sorting Office. The Rides bore the names of the Sorting Offices at which they terminated, and were :—the Finchley Ride, the Edmonton Ride, the Woodford Ride, the Woolwich Ride, the Sydenham Ride, the Wadden Ride, the Richmond Ride, the Brentford Ride, and the Harrow Ride. Of these the two latter were attached to the Westminster Office. In each Ride communication was maintained between the Sorting Offices and with the Head Offices by Riders who conveyed bags in each direction at 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. ; while a third despatch from London was made by the outgoing mail coaches at 8 p.m.

Under these arrangements the circulation of correspondence was by no means rapid. In the town district a letter for the Borough, posted in Goswell Road at 9 a.m., would not be delivered until about 1 p.m. ; and a reply, posted by 4 p.m., would not be received until 8 p.m. A letter for a country place, such as Islington, if posted at 9 a.m., would not be delivered until 7 p.m. ; and a reply posted at 9 a.m. on the following day, would not be received until 1 p.m.

Between country places in different Rides the circulation was even more slow owing to the absence of Cross Posts. A letter for Kingsland, posted at Islington at 9 a.m., would not be delivered until 7 p.m.; and a reply, posted at 9 a.m. on the following day, would not be received until 7 p.m.

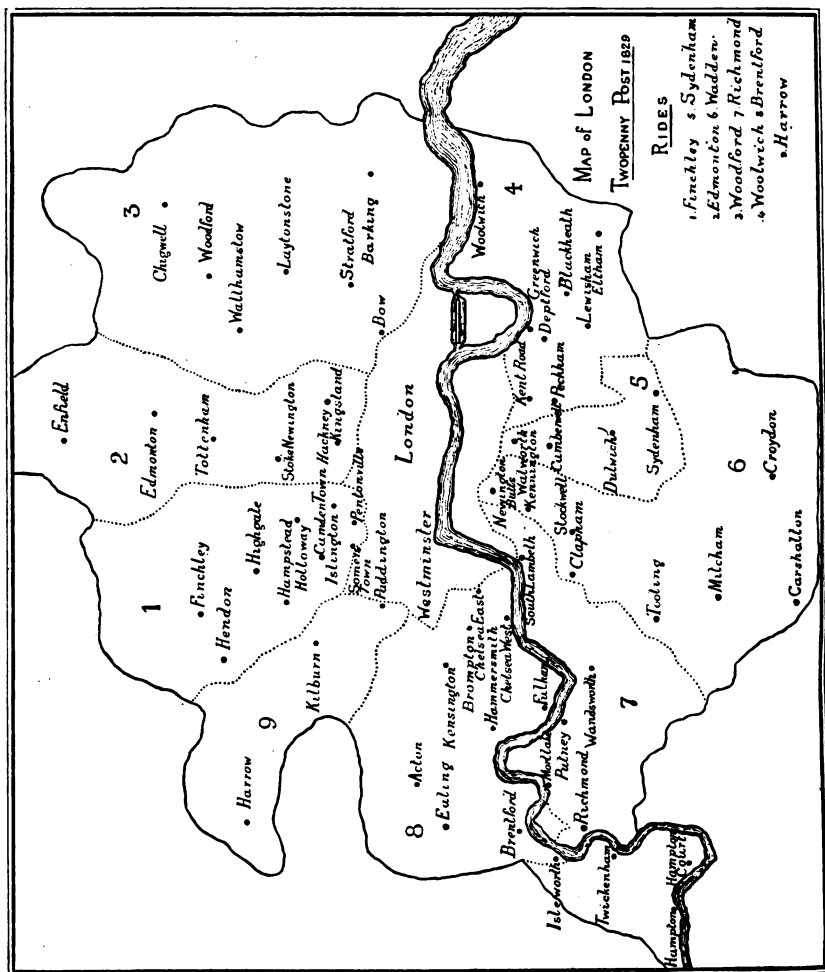
The Twopenny Post had had an unusually eventful history. It had been started as a Penny Post by William Dockwra, and it was originally intended for the conveyance of parcels as well as letters in London, Westminster, and Southwark, with their suburbs. Its promoter, however, so far from being officially recognised as a public benefactor, was prosecuted in 1683 for infringing the Post Office monopoly, and the Post was wrested from his hands. Subsequently Dockwra was appointed Controller, but was eventually dismissed for malpractices. Under Post Office management the rates were gradually raised, until in 1829 they were 2d. and 3d. for town and country, respectively, with a maximum weight of 4 ounces.

In the Inland Office the correspondence to and from the provinces was dealt with. There were as yet no railways, and the mails were brought in by coaches, which arrived about 6.30 a.m. The preparation of the letters for delivery occupied a considerable time, as it was a far more laborious process than it is at the present day. Postage was paid in money, and the amount of the paid as well as of the unpaid postage had to be calculated, and charged against the Deputies on the one hand and the letter-carriers on the other. The complexity of the accounts can best be seen by taking the case of a provincial Office. The Deputy of an important Office would be in communication not only with London but with many Bye-Offices or Post Towns on the same Road, and with several Offices with which there was a Cross Post to connect his own Road with another. On the letter bills sent to each of these Offices the amount of the paid and the unpaid postage was shewn, and the totals were corrected or accepted at the receiving Offices. The letter bills were then sent to the Letter Bill Office and the Bye and Cross Post Letter Office in London to be compared with the monthly statements furnished by the Deputies, and made the basis of their quarterly accounts. A monthly statement forwarded by St. Albans to the Bye and Cross Road Letter Office in London, would contain the daily totals of the postage of paid and unpaid letters sent to and received from Barnet, Dunstable, Woburn, Newport, Northampton, Kettering, Harborough, and Leicester; whilst a busy office would

be in communication with perhaps fifty others. In the Inland Office the work of preparation occupied about three hours, and the delivery was consequently not commenced until 9 a.m., and was often not completed until one o'clock. The area of delivery was more restricted than that of the town district of the Twopenny Post, and letters for places outside it were transferred to the Twopenny Post, where a charge of 2d. was imposed for delivery.

The lateness of the General-post delivery was to some extent compensated for by the delivery from the "Alphabet" at the window, an arrangement analogous to the present private box system, and one that was largely made use of in the business quarters of the City. But a more generally patronised arrangement was the Early Delivery. By this system letters for subscribers were delivered at once, either by special letter-carriers or by the ordinary letter-carriers who passed the residences of the subscribers on their way to their own Walks. Two-thirds of the letters were delivered in this way in half-an-hour, as the letter-carriers saved much time by not waiting for the payment of the postage, but leaving it to be collected by the regular letter-carrier of the Walk after the completion of the delivery. There were 71 Receiving Houses for General-post letters which were separate from those of the Two-penny Post, and these were closed at 5 p.m.; while from 5 to 6 o'clock the letter-carriers perambulated their walks ringing their bells, and accepted letters for a fee of 1d. At the Head Office, letters were received until 7 p.m., and on payment of 6d. until 7.45 p.m., the mails being despatched at 8 o'clock. As mails were received and despatched only once a day, letters passing through London sustained a delay of 14 hours; and the circulation of correspondence between places not connected by a Bye or Cross Post was extremely slow. A letter posted at Cheshunt on Monday would not be delivered in Hounslow until Wednesday morning, and a reply posted the same day would not be received until about mid-day on Friday.

The Foreign Office had its special area of delivery, which was even smaller than that of the General Post: in some parts it excluded large districts like Stepney, while in others the difference was very slight. Letters for places outside the Foreign boundary were delivered by the Twopenny Post; and, if they were for places beyond the General Post boundary, a charge of 2d. was imposed. The morning delivery did not commence until 10 o'clock, and was not completed until 1 o'clock; a second delivery was made at 2 p.m. when any Foreign mails were received late. The collections



were made from the General Post Receiving Houses by the General Post letter-carriers, and mails were despatched to France four times a week, to Flanders and Holland twice a week, and to America and the West Indies twice a month. The Foreign Office does not appear to have been a very progressive Department, and a quaintly antique style characterised its arrangements. Its delivery boundary had not been revised for nearly a quarter of a century, although building had meanwhile been proceeding rapidly outside it, and the arrangement and nomenclature of its walks were even more out of date. There had at some early period been only nine walks, and these had been known by the names of the respective letter-carriers. By 1829 the walks had been divided into 32, but the resources of the Foreign Office were apparently unequal to the task of naming them, for only nine walks were recognised, and these still bore the names of the original letter-carriers.

The existence of three areas of delivery in the town originated in the narrow policy of the Government, which regarded the Post Office chiefly, if not solely, as a source of revenue. How much this was the case may be judged from the fact that the then existing rates, which had been raised twice within thirty years, produced a profit of 100 per cent. in the General Post and 200 per cent. in the Twopenny Post. It is surprising, therefore, to find that, when in 1801 the Penny Post was converted into a Twopenny Post, it was reported that "the letter carriers collect the new postage without any difficulty, the public saying little or nothing on the subject." In London an extension of the General Post delivery involved a loss of 2d. on General Post and Foreign letters, and of 1d. on Twopenny Post letters. Now, in the matter of delivery charges the Post Office had always assumed an unyielding attitude. It had long contested the right to free delivery in Post towns, and, when defeated in the actions-at-law brought against it, it determined to comply with no more than the letter of the law, and fixed the limits of delivery at its own pleasure. Those living beyond the arbitrary boundary were charged for delivery; and it often happened that at one house letters were received free, whilst at the next a delivery fee upon each was exacted.

A want of readiness to meet the reasonable requirements of the public was shown in many other ways, and notably in connection with registered letters. In 1829 there was no legally authorised system of registration; but inland letters containing coin were entered on the letter bills, and receipts were obtained on delivery.

This was done gratuitously, but no responsibility for loss was accepted, and letters containing paper money could not be registered. It appears to have been the practice to accept foreign letters for registration, but the fees—a guinea for outward letters and five shillings for inward letters—were almost prohibitive.

The early history of the Money Order Office has already been narrated in this magazine; and it need only be said that in 1829 it was still being carried on by Daniel Stow, the Superintending President of the Inland Office, and two other officers, as a private concern. But this was not the only extra-official work which was allowed to be carried on by officials. A striking instance was that of the "newspaper privilege." This was a long-established arrangement by which the Superintending President and the Clerks of the Roads in the Inland Office were allowed to act as agents for the supply of London newspapers to subscribers in the country, and were permitted to post their newspapers an hour later than the newsvendors, and to make use of the Deputies in the country as their agents. A similar privilege was enjoyed by the Controller and others in the Foreign Office in connection with newspapers to and from abroad (except the British Colonies); and, as there was no special newspaper rate of postage, and the newspapers were officially franked, the privilege in this case was practically a monopoly. There were other difficulties in the way of the circulation of newspapers at this time besides the cost of postage. Foreign Governments by no means welcomed our newspapers; and in 1829 there were only two English dailies which were not prohibited from circulation in France. Owing to such difficulties, the cost of an English daily paper to a foreign subscriber was sometimes very high, and in the case of a resident in Russia is said to have amounted to £40 a year. The Foreign Office were also allowed to supply translated extracts from foreign newspapers to the London papers, which reproduced them almost verbatim, and seem to have relied largely upon this source of information.

The total amount of fees and perquisites received annually by officers in London was as much as £20,000, the Secretary heading the list with the handsome sum of £3,000. But these liberal emoluments did not secure a due return in zealous service. The attendance of many officers was very irregular, and that of some heads of Departments was merely nominal. The Receiver-General, whose salary was £800, was also Distributor of Stamps to the Excise Office with a salary of £1,000, yet, in addition to this, he



could attend daily at the Treasury, where he was Private Secretary to the First Lord.

Considering the high rates of postage and the many vexatious fees and perquisites exacted from the public, it is not surprising that the services of the Post Office were dispensed with wherever possible. This was the obvious explanation of the fact that, although during the last quarter of a century population had been increasing rapidly, while trade had extended, and travel become more frequent, the Postal Revenue had remained stationary. Correspondence had enormously increased, but the business of the Post Office showed no growth. In spite of its legal monopoly the Post Office was losing hold of its business, and an extensive system of illicit conveyance of letters had long been growing up. Among business men it had become quite a practice to accept letters from customers and friends for transmission in parcels of goods, while their customers in the country who delivered them forwarded in return their own letters to be distributed in London. A well-known author stated that in this way he could correspond with any town where there was a bookseller. Another plan adopted was to write orders for several houses in London on a single sheet of paper, and this, on its receipt in London, was cut into portions for distribution. Travellers, coachmen, boatmen, carmen, and pedlars joined in the illicit traffic; while in some parts the carriers collected and delivered letters openly, and were almost universally patronised. Only one letter in four, it was estimated, passed through the post.

As regards Foreign letters, there were well-known coffee-houses where bags for abroad were regularly made up, and there was hardly a shipbroker who did not keep an open bag in his office for his customers' correspondence; while the American packets sailing from the Thames were known to carry over 4,000 letters each journey. There was one obvious cure for this widespread evil, but it was, unfortunately, the last that the Government was inclined to adopt. Repressive measures were tried in vain, until a reduction of rates became necessary to avert a catastrophe.

Glancing at headquarters we observe that recent changes have occurred of some significance. The Secretary's Office, which was originally what its name implies, has become, in Freeling's words, "the regulating and controlling office of the whole Department." The Postmaster-General no longer takes part in the immediate superintendence of his office, and the Secretary is already the regular medium of communication between the Postmaster-General

and the various Departments. The important posts of Resident Surveyor and of Comptroller-General have been absorbed in that of the Secretary, and the Superintendent of Mail Coaches, whose duties were of great importance while railways were not in existence, is reduced to a mere member of the Secretary's Office. Looking still higher, we see only a single Postmaster-General, although before 1823 there had for more than a century been two. But the joint Postmasters-General had possessed no power of separate action, and the advantage of the "plural unit" was not evident. It is, therefore, amusing to note that this simple reform met with much opposition, and the subject was debated in the House of Commons with a gravity that would have led an uninstructed onlooker to believe that interests of some magnitude were at stake. One honourable member, who hotly opposed the measure, declared that "he could not consent to pull down the ancient institutions of the country, those institutions under which the country had so long prospered"; a second affirmed that "if he was to be led on, step by step, last week having abolished two Lords of the Admiralty, to-day abolishing one joint Postmaster-General, and to-morrow the whole Board of Control (India), he should resist at once the destruction of that influence without which the government of the country could not be carried on"; whilst a third, an alderman, "trusted that on the present occasion every loyal man would rally round the throne to protect its just and constitutional privileges."

It is consoling to reflect that the evils anticipated by these parliamentary Cassandras have not yet come to pass. The Post Office, with its army of 130,000 officers, its postal revenue of £10,000,000, and its business represented by 2,800,000,000 postal articles handled yearly, has not missed its duplicate Postmaster-General, whilst Crown and Constitution, "broad-based upon the people's will," stand more firmly now than they ever did in the good old times.

F. H. D. BUSHNELL.

Registry, G.P.O.

## “The Semi-Jubilee of State Telegraphy.”



HIS is the title of an article in the May number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, some quotations from which will, no doubt, be interesting to our readers. The article, after alluding to the acquisition of the telegraphic system by the Post Office, and dealing at some length with the statistics and *personnel* of the Central Telegraph Office, and more especially with the system of News Transmission, contains the following graphic description:—

“Passers along St. Martin’s-le-Grand have little idea of the contents, other than human beings, of the ‘G.P.O. West.’ From basement to roof it is stored with the appliances of telegraphy of the most costly and complicated character. In the basement is contained the ‘motive power’ of the whole establishment, in the shape of the batteries used to actuate the wires, and the steam engines used to create pressure and vacuum for the pneumatic tubes. The batteries are contained in 27,000 cells, ranged on shelves three-and-a-half miles in length. Probably half a mile of shelving was sufficient twenty-five years ago. What an innocent-looking thing a battery cell is! a glass or earthenware jar, filled with a dirty-looking liquid, in which a metal plate is immersed, the upper side, or rather the ‘top end,’ joined to a copper wire. And yet there may be hatching there treasons, stratagems, swindles, life, death, joy, sorrow, or any of the emotions which constitute the pain or the pleasure of living. You press a knob on the top floor of the building, and, with the quickness of thought, some of that liquid is taken up, and a signal is recorded in Birmingham, or a letter is printed in Berlin. The countryman was not so far wrong, when, unable to *see* the messages passing along the wires, and wondering how they got past the posts, he concluded that they must be sent in a ‘fluid state.’ Batteries will not work without ‘refreshment’ any more than barristers; hence the operations constantly going on for renewing the liquid and adding to the constituents by which chemical action is set up and maintained. Simple as the batteries of to-day appear, they have an immediate and a sustaining power far beyond those of a quarter of a century ago, and incomparably greater than that of the sand and sulphuric acid battery associated with the introduction of telegraphy fifty or more years ago. The other motive power of which we spoke—the steam engines—is not so obvious a necessity in telegraphy as the battery.

Strictly speaking, it is not used for telegraphing, but as an adjunct to the wire. Telegraphing over short distances, as within towns, for instance, is a very costly operation. It requires the same number of operators—one at each end—and the same number of instruments as for the longest distances. But compressed air will blow a telegraph form through a metal tube as far as two or three miles in as many minutes; and the steam engines are used to compress the air by means of which the pneumatic tubes are worked. The engine room at the Central Office resembles nothing so much as the engine room of a great steamship, except that the engines are on the 'Beam' principle, as being the best suited to the peculiar work in which they are engaged. They are magnificent specimens of the engineer's craft, and have a stately appearance, due in large measure to their leisurely stroke as compared with the hurried action of the marine or electric light engine. Night and day these engines are employed in pumping air into, or exhausting it out of, large 'containers' connected with the tube-room overhead. There are no fewer than thirty-six pneumatic tubes radiating throughout the metropolis, buried under the pavement amongst the gas and water pipes, and every now and then crossing the path of the telegraph wire, whose handmaid they are. It is desired, say, to send a message from St. Martin's-le-Grand to Charing Cross. Here is a tube-like felt-covered box which will contain one or a dozen message forms at pleasure. Place the form inside; secure the open end of the box, or 'carrier,' as it is called, by means of an elastic band; insert the box in the mouth of the tube; admit the compressed air, and away it goes, across Newgate Street, along Paternoster Row, down Ludgate Hill, up Fleet Street, and along the Strand, where, at No. 448, it projects itself under the nose of the attendant with a thud and a rebound, in almost shorter time than it takes to describe the operation. All the air is stored at the Central Office, so that if it be desired to reverse the operation—*i.e.*, to send a message from the West End to the City—it is only necessary to transmit an electric signal, when vacuum is turned on, and the 'carrier' is sucked in which a minute before had been blown out. The tubes are, in fact, gigantic pea-shooters! What may be called the working gear of the tubes is in itself a most interesting sight. It has been mostly designed by officials of the Telegraph Department, and is unique of its kind. Indeed, the whole pneumatic system of the Central Office is an 'exhibit' of the most interesting kind, and an object of just pride with those who have it in charge."

The article then goes on to speak of the different forms of apparatus in use in the Postal Telegraph system, and has the following passage about the Duplex method, which, if not very scientific, is at least highly original, and more or less intelligible to the lay mind in matters telegraphic:—

"A quarter of a century ago wires and instruments were only worked on what is called the 'simplex' principle—*i.e.*, they only

carried a single message in one direction at one time. It was not unlike a single line of railway, where trains cannot pass each other except at a crossing station—the crossing station in the case of the telegraph being the point where the wire is divided and a transmitting station set up. The first advance upon the simplex, or one-way system was the duplex, or two-way system, which was introduced some time after the telegraphs were acquired by the Post Office. One Gintl, an Austrian, was the first to discover the principle of the duplex method, and one Stearns, an American, was the first to apply it practically. It is now very extensively used, and has, indeed, become almost an every-day method of telegraphy, much as it was marvelled at when first introduced. It can hardly be popularly described in these pages; but, to fall back on the single line of railway analogy, it would hardly be too much to say that two separate trains of thought can now be got past each other on the same line of telegraph without the aid of a crossing station. In fact, up and down trains can be started continuously from either end of the wire without the least risk of their coming into collision, or even of their contents becoming 'mixed up' in any way. Here, then, the carrying capacity of a telegraph wire was doubled by simply adjusting the instruments at either end—a result equivalent to doubling a railway without laying down another set of rails! But, in telegraphy, the wonder of to-day becomes the commonplace of to-morrow, and hardly had the duplex system been fairly established when the quadruplex system was evolved from the fertile brains of our electricians. This, as its name implies, is a four-way system, capable of doubling the result obtained from the duplex, and being in turn outdone by the sextuplex, or the multiplex, as it is sometimes called, which gives a sixfold result of the original simplex of twenty-five years ago. One may reasonably ask, whether the wires are not more rapidly used up under all this pressure of electricity forced through them, so to speak. In practice, we believe, this is not so, although it will probably be found that a better class of wire—perhaps even copper itself—has been introduced in recent years, in order to meet the demand for high-speed telegraphy, just as steel rails have superseded iron ones. It is not altogether correct, perhaps, to speak of the duplex, the quadruplex, and the sextuplex as separate systems of telegraphy. They are, in reality, methods which have been grafted on the Morse system, which is the basis of all of them, and which seems likely to be the subject of many more improvements and adjustments."

This about the Chronofer, too, is interesting, especially to those who have watched its operations in the Central Office:—

"Yet another instrument, or apparatus, claims our attention ere we quit the 'galleries' of the great Central Office. It is none other than the 'National Timekeeper,' the apparatus that transmits the Greenwich time current throughout the Kingdom, and fires guns at several places, including that which is fired daily at one o'clock from

the grand old castle of Edinburgh. This apparatus is called the 'Chronofer'—the 'time maker,' literally. It does not lend itself readily to popular description, but it is none the less interesting on that account. All the wires over which it is desired to transmit the time current are connected with the Chronofer, and when it is brought into action the instruments usually connected with the wires are 'cut out,' as it is called, so that there is free scope for the instantaneous transmission of the current. The action of the Chronofer is automatic, so that the errors incidental to human intervention are shut out from its operations. The Chronofer probably dates back to the time when Cromwell Fleetwood Varley was electrician to the late Electric and International Telegraph Company—a man of unbounded genius as well as unbounded enthusiasm in his profession, to whom many improvements in early telegraphy are due."

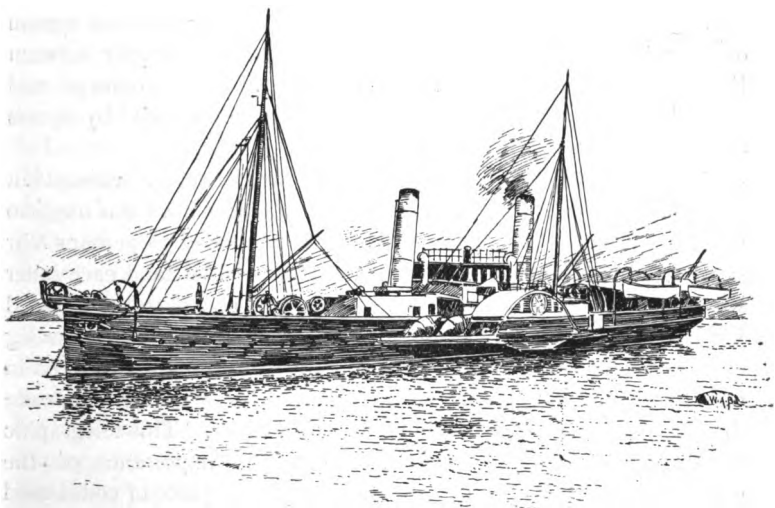
The article goes on to speak of the evidences of progress outside the Central Office during the past twenty-five years, giving the statistics as to mileage of wire, number of instruments, number of offices, and so forth. Special stress is laid on the increase of submarine communication within the United Kingdom, and the beneficent results accruing therefrom, especially in the case of Scotland and Ireland, "where the fishing industry has received a stimulus which it sadly needed twenty-five years ago." The writer, who recalls the time when the charge for a telegram from Edinburgh to London was "something like *twelve shillings*," waxes eloquent on the possibility of being able to send one from Jersey to John O'Groats, or from Scilly to Shetland, for *sixpence*, and rejoices in the rapid extension of coast communication, by means of which "ships may be signalled when in safety or succoured when in straits." Contrasting the days of the telegraph companies, when the charges were not only prohibitive, but when there was no attempt to "educate" the general public to the use of the telegraph, with the present time, when the Post Office has brought the wire to the doors of the people by opening nearly ten thousand offices throughout the country, he (the writer) declares that "the public are no longer afraid to trust either their secrets or their sentiments to the wire," or to "announce a birth or acclaim a birthday" by its means.

The article concludes with the following passages:—

"The Post Office did well to celebrate the semi-jubilee of State Telegraphy at the end of January last, and Mr. Arnold Morley never spoke to better purpose, or more happily, than, when proposing the toast of the Queen, he pointed out that the reign of Her Majesty had witnessed both the commencement and the rapid development of the telegraphic system of the country. How rapid that develop-

ment has been well illustrated by an extract from Mr. Greville's diary under date 1836, in which he mentioned that the King's Speech had been delivered in Paris within twenty-nine hours of its delivery in London—"a rapidity of transmission that was almost incredible." That is not yet sixty years ago, and to-day you may step into the Central Office at St. Martin's-le-Grand and hold instantaneous communication with your friend in Paris by means of the telephone! At the celebration referred to, the Marquis of Ripon and the Earl of Kimberley alluded to the Colonial and International advantages arising from the use of the telegraph, the latter looking forward to the time when 'the whole Empire would act for all great purposes as one body, and when we might exercise an influence on the whole world which had probably never been equalled in the past.'

"At the moment in which these pages receive their final touch, there comes the announcement that the Prince of Wales has just sent an autograph telegram from the Royal United Service Institution to the Duke of Connaught at Aldershot. This was accomplished by means of the 'Telautograph' of Mr. Elisha Gray, an apparatus requiring as many as four wires, and representing, in its present condition, rather the luxury than the liberty of telegraphing. But who can tell what it may have accomplished when the Jubilee, or, still more, the Centenary of State Telegraphy comes to be celebrated, and when Mr. Preece's dream of telegraphing *without wires* shall have been realised?"



H.M.T.S. "ALERT."  
(Formerly *Lady Carmichael*.)

## *The Official Vocabulary for Code Telegrams.*



HIS important collection of code words, to be used for telegrams in code or preconcerted language, has recently been issued, after some years of labour in preparation, by the International Telegraph Office at Berne. It has already been the subject of numerous notices in the Press and of many enquiries, and will doubtless be the subject of many more seeing that its use will be obligatory for European telegrams from the 1st January, 1898, and is recommended for extra-European telegrams also. Some description, therefore, of the causes of its production and the objects which it is intended to serve may be welcome to many of our readers. For this description we have freely drawn on the lucid article in the *Journal Télégraphique*.

It appears that between the years 1865 and 1870 a new system of communication was introduced in commercial telegraphy between England and British India. Hitherto only plain language and secret language were known, the latter being represented by figures or separate letters.

The object of the new system was not, however, secrecy but reduction of cost. Instead of a phrase a single word was used, so that a telegram of, say, 20 or 30 words was reduced to perhaps four or five. In order that correspondents might understand each other when exchanging such telegrams, they had of course to be provided with an alphabetical list of phrases followed by the corresponding code words, or *vice versa*. Frequently the two forms were united in one by placing the alphabetically arranged list of phrases opposite the list of code words, also in alphabetical order. This telegraphic shorthand, as it may be called, increased in importance on the establishment of word rates in telegraphy. In place of codes used only by a few individuals or firms by mutual agreement, codes compiled by experts were published, intended for general use or for use



by persons interested in special kinds of business, such as mining, coffee planting, &c. These codes varied not more in object than in volume, ranging from a few hundreds of phrases to a hundred thousand.

At first the various governmental administrations and cable companies charged telegrams, the sense of which was unintelligible without the key, in the same manner as telegrams in cipher or written in secret language. The new class of messages in "concerted language" was first recognized on a separate footing at the International Conference at Rome in 1871-72, and then began two parallel movements, on the one hand a more liberal treatment of code telegrams on the part of telegraph authorities, and on the other an eager straining to the very utmost of all facilities on the part of the senders of telegrams. In short, the facilities were abused. Colourable imitations of actual words were freely inserted, French which would have disfigured the pages of even a realistic novel, and Latin which, not to speak of Cicero, would have been searched for in vain in the most ponderous Thesaurus of the diction of monkish chroniclers. It is easy to see how these worse than barbarous "expressions" would arise. A code maker wishing to express, say, four phrases by four consonants, *e.g.*, f r t m, supplied vowels to make up a single word, and unblushingly tendered "faritam" as a Latin "word."

Moreover, besides the codes with the phrases appended to the corresponding words, collections were published of words only, intended to serve as materials for persons who form codes. Such collections have become numerous, the number of words comprised in them ranging from a few thousands to 200,000. On the other hand, the various telegraph administrations represented at the International Conference restricted the number of the languages from which words used in code telegrams can be drawn, to eight; and, for the first time at the International Conference held in London in 1879, considered the advisability of issuing an official vocabulary containing all the words admissible in code telegrams. This scheme was decided on at the Conference of Paris in 1890, and the Vocabulary now issued is the outcome of the decision then arrived at.

It is curious to observe the widening of the views of the administrations on the subject of the number of words which such a vocabulary should contain. In 1879 the number thought sufficient was 100,000, in 1885 and 1890 the number was raised to 200,000, which has been exceeded in the new vocabulary.

The method adopted by the International Bureau in the preparation of the recent Vocabulary was as follows. It engaged a supplementary staff of officials belonging to the German, English, Spanish, French, Dutch and Italian nationalities, for the purpose of extracting from the best standard dictionaries of the eight admitted languages above referred to, words having at least five, and at most ten letters, and of forming the inflexions of these (declensions, conjugation, comparative and superlative). The auxiliary staff formed thus in about two years' work a collection of somewhat more than 500,000 words. The words from each language formed a separate collection, from which it was the duty of the representative of the language to weed out all words having too close a resemblance, whether in print or telegraphic symbols, to other words of the same language. Then the separate lists thus amended had to be all brought together for a general weeding out of all words too closely resembling each in any of the languages. A still further process of selection of considerable rigour yet remained. After the printing, which commenced on the 8th May, 1894, no fewer than about 100,000 words, which had escaped scrutiny in the manuscript, were eliminated during the collation and examination of the proofs.

The printing and binding of the Vocabulary were completed by the end of September, 1894, in time for the distribution of copies to the several administrations to be accomplished by January 1, 1895. The Vocabulary forms a large quarto publication of 856 pages. It contains 256,740 words of which 213,950 are numbered. The unnumbered words are intended to supply a stock from which any of the numbered words which are found unsuitable can be replaced. The preface contains the articles and paragraphs of the Regulations of Paris relative to concerted language and to the official Vocabulary, a list of the dictionaries used in compilation, the rules which have regulated the orthography, the numbering and the elimination of similar words and some information as to the recognition and correction of eventual telegraph errors. It appears that the Vocabulary is actually used not only indirectly in the compilation of codes, as intended by the administrations, but also directly as a code itself.

In spite of every precaution, imperfections have doubtless crept into the Vocabulary, but as its use for European traffic does not become obligatory until January 1st, 1898, there will be ample opportunity to incorporate the results of actual working experience in a list to be published by the International Bureau of words which must yet be struck out from the Vocabulary. As the Bureau points

out, words of one language which to persons speaking it are clear enough, *e.g.*, "Lovierijen," may seem barbarous and uncouth expressions to those who are not familiar with the language, and especially to those unfamiliar with the group of languages concerned, *e.g.*, words of the Teutonic group to persons familiar only with the Romanic languages, but this objection is inseparable from any polyglot compilation.

Those whose codes will need to be remodelled, at least to the extent of the elimination of all words which are not also to be found in the new official Vocabulary, will perhaps be disposed to take up a hostile attitude with regard to it. But, however this may be, the following important and preponderant benefits will be secured. There will be a definite, accessible, and final standard of reference as to what expressions may be used in code telegrams. Disputes and linguistic researches will thus be avoided. There will be a guide to correct spelling in code telegrams and a check to ensure accuracy of transmission. Accuracy will be further promoted by the fact that words which are too similar, typographically or telegraphically to others, have been excluded from the official list. The compilers aimed at a distinction in all cases between the words adopted of at least two letters or three elementary Morse signs; and only departed from this rule in the later stages of their work where the words differed sufficiently in print, and the telegraphic resemblance was only obtained by an artificial grouping of the Morse symbols.

V.



OTTAWA POST OFFICE (ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING).

## *A Visit to the Dominion.*

**L**AST year, towards the end of May, I started in the Allan Line steamer, "Sardinian," for Montreal. The sea voyage was without much incident, and may be dismissed in a paragraph.

Weather very cold, but a fairly smooth sea. Four successive days the thermometer varying from 43 to 32. A small number of saloon passengers, 44 all told. A disagreeably shaky saloon, planted aft, instead of amidships, but a state-room to oneself—luxury of luxuries—and easily procurable with so few passengers. For a day and a half the icebergs were visible in great numbers, and caution and slow travelling were the orders of the day; for icebergs very frequently bring in their train those dense fogs, the terror of sea captains.

After 12 hours delay through fog we steamed up to, or rather were tugged up to, the landing stage at Montreal. I forgot to mention that before reaching Montreal one had time to have a two hours' drive round that strong natural fortress and steep-streeted city, Quebec. There, is the monument to Wolfe and his antagonist, Montcalm, who fell in 1759, at a time when Pitt was in the zenith of his power and glory, and when his name was a household word in every court and capital in Europe. There, too, Abraham's Heights, the prison, the Parliament buildings, and *the* Arch are all to be seen and admired. The gulf and river of the St. Lawrence are also well worthy of admiration, with banks studded with maple woods, and picturesque houses and hamlets embedded in and around them.

But to return to Montreal. Here I am at the landing-stage, and, hulloa! here is my brother-in-law awaiting me.

What a sorry farce this examination of luggage is! I turn three keys, open three bags, a uniformed official glances at them, and disfigures each with chalk hieroglyphics outside. Luggage all passed. But wait a moment. I crowed too soon. He does not like a wooden package I possess, a picture for my "pioneer" (the afore-mentioned brother-in-law). It was extremely well-packed, and I was extremely well-examined. "Is it a portrait?" "No." "Is it an oil painting?" "No." "What is it then?" "A picture of a Church." "What Church?" "Stowe Church." "Where is Stowe Church?" "At Lichfield." "Where is Lichfield?" Here the impatient "pioneer" intervened. "Staffordshire, England." The uniformed official departed, only to return with a gold-braided uniformed official. I was having great merriment aside. My Canadian "pioneer" to pay duty on his own soil! What exactly happened I know not to this day. "The pioneer" whispered to the gold-braided man. The gold-braided man whispered to "the pioneer." They both smiled. They both laughed. Hands crossed hands. Hats were raised. At last we are free!

Perhaps the most noteworthy building in Montreal is the Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter's, close to the Windsor Hotel. This was built at the enormous cost of two million dollars, and was very largely contributed to by Roman Catholic servants in the town. The dome, and style of architecture, are modelled after the world-famous St. Peter's at Rome. One thing be sure and do at Montreal; take a drive by the Golf Links, and through the Cemetery and Park. The Park (Mont Royal) is to the inhabitants of Montreal very much

what Hyde Park is to Londoners, and at points you get a charming view over the city. There is a nice little Theatre, where the ubiquitous "Charley's Aunt" is being performed by an American Company, but an utter absence of evening dress. This is explained by the fact of early late-dinners (6 p.m.) and an out-door life afterwards.

On to Ottawa. We arrive about 10 p.m. and I am left in a dark Station by "the pioneer" and cabman, to look after the horse, while they look after the luggage. A passing engine makes the horse restive, and, mindful of my charge-ship, I go to his head with true English instinct. He is loaded to the ground as the custom is out there (they fasten a leather thong to the bit with a heavy weight attached to the other end), but at one time he seemed like running away with the weight, cab, and myself. The more I hold on to the horse's head, the more the horse plunges. At length the driver arrives, harangues me in the strongest Saxon for touching the horse's head, and says that I may consider myself extremely fortunate to be still in the land of the living.

Parliament is sitting at Ottawa. The session commenced on the 15th March, and was likely to last till the end of June or even longer, owing solely to Parliamentary obstruction. Obstruction is not a privileged monopoly in England alone. Out there, a minority can prolong a session, and waste public time and money. Members are paid 1000 dollars a year each. Some, I believe, need this money dearly, and to justify this Government livelihood, hold that a prolonged stay must be made at Ottawa.

With "the pioneer," and a clerical friend of his, I start on a pilgrimage to the Houses of Parliament, and the Public Offices. The clerical friend made a capital cicerone. He first took us to the "Sanctum Sanctorum," that room which is brightened by the luminous thoughts and vo-luminous discussions of the Premier and his Cabinet, and where State secrets are uttered, never to be revealed. Thence we passed on to the Reading Room and the Library. The latter, a most charming room, is made entirely of pine wood which is cut and worked out in most curious and attractive fashion. The pine is a very pliable wood which particularly lends itself to skilled carving. There is an admirable library, too, containing the standard works of all countries. We then pass on to the gilded chamber, the Senate House, corresponding to our House of Lords. But, as in our Upper House, the power of veto on Bills sent up from the House of Commons is seldom exercised.

The functions of the Senate are mainly to pass, add to, or improve upon, the Bills sent up to it; and, at times, to originate some of its own.

Next we came to the room where the House of Commons assembles. The House was not then sitting, as it was the forenoon. But some members were ensconced in their various places, writing, or conning over notes and books of reference. Our cicerone turned to me and said, "You see we are in advance of you in the old country, we have female suffrage here, and have one lady member. See, there she sits." I looked in the direction indicated, and sure enough, espied a young lady of considerable personal charms, busily engaged with her pen. "Yes, I replied, you are indeed in advance of us, and the Lady M.P. is young and most attractive looking." "Ah! he said, that is the worst of it. I am afraid it was her looks alone won her the seat." Laughter, smothered and suppressed, but laughter all the same from "the pioneer" and another gentleman with us, convinced me of the hoax I had been subjected to. The lady was simply assisting her father in transcribing some notes. This concluded our inspection of the Parliamentary Buildings and we adjourned to a corner of the large open grass square, in which the Houses are situated, to obtain a view of the famous Chaudière Falls, Niagara on a miniature scale.

By this time our cicerone had discovered that I was connected with the Post Office in England, and insisted on taking us over the public offices, which are situated in the same square and face the Houses of Parliament. Col. White is the Deputy Postmaster-General, equivalent to the Secretary in London, and to his room I was escorted. He was, however, busily engaged with a deputation at the time, and, as a second attempt proved equally abortive, the introduction fell through. As regards the offices themselves, you might be roaming about the corridors and rooms of St. Martin-le-Grand, save for three things: (1) There are elevators to take you from floor to floor, (2) the corridors are everywhere heated with hot-water pipes, (3) the light in the rooms is excellent, standing as the building does in a large square, with a large open space in front of it. A recollection of St. Martin's-le-Grand cooped up in a crowded city, with gas often burning, rose vividly to one's memory, and the comparison was all in favour of the Ottawa edifice, which has not as yet assumed the colour and complexion of a blackamoor. At noon precisely the boom of a cannon is heard, and by this all the clocks and watches in Ottawa are regulated. I enquired why Ottawa

was selected as the seat of the Government, seeing that it was not as central as Toronto, nor as important a town as Montreal with all its shipping interests. I was informed that at the time of its selection in 1860, Ottawa was little more than a large village, and a deadly combat to obtain the privilege was raging at Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto. The then Governor-General (who had a knack of doing disagreeable things), amidst all this strife, chose Ottawa, as being likely to please no one.

The House of Commons opens at 3.0 p.m. with Prayers, and then come questions. At 3.30 p.m. I went there and found an interesting debate in progress, in which it was expected the leading lights on both sides would take part. The right hand man (Mr. Mills) of the opposition leader spoke for two hours. A speech bristling with precedents quoted from the English Law Courts and our own House of Commons. The resolution of the opposition was to all intents and purposes a censure on a judge for a judgment delivered as being harsh and excessive. Before Mr. Mills finished we adjourned to an M.P.'s room in the House for a cigarette and "refreshments," but as soon as the news came that the Premier (Sir J. Thompson) was on his feet, cigarettes were discarded, refreshments swallowed, and we hurried back to our places in the Speaker's Gallery. Half an hour only was left Sir J. Thompson before 6.0 p.m. would be reached, when the Speaker vacates the Chair until 8.0 p.m. This is the regulation two hours dinner interval. The Premier made the most of his time. He spoke very fluently in a courteous, but withal firm and emphatic manner, and evoked the cheers of his supporters again and again. At length 6.0 p.m. came, and with it general dispersal. Sharp at 8.0 p.m. I repaired again to the Speaker's Gallery, and heard the Premier continue his speech for another hour. It was a pleasure to listen to him to the last, and little could any one then have foreseen how soon his life and political career were to be brought to a close. The subsequent speeches were not very interesting, until Mr. Laurier (a Frenchman), the leader of the opposition, arose. He is, *par excellence*, the orator of the House, a most silver tongued speaker, and between him and the Premier lay the honours of the day.

In the evening "the pioneer" and myself saw "The Rivals" at the Theatre, and well performed it was, particularly the part of Mrs. Malaprop. I was subsequently told that the actress (Mrs. John Drew), undertaking this part, was 74 years of age. This makes Mrs. John Wood, who lately played the part of "The Duchess" in "The



Derby Winner," appear quite juvenile. Thanks to the kindness of "the pioneer's" friends, and the members for East and West Hastings, I left Ottawa with real regret after taking a final farewell of the Chaudière Falls and the charmingly wooded walk beneath the Houses of Parliament, and by the banks of the Ottawa.

I journey on to Prescott, and there cross the River St. Lawrence and put foot at Ogdensburg on American soil. There is nothing of interest at either place, but the next day we make an early start by steamer up the St. Lawrence, and pass through the far-famed 1000 Islands, of which Canada is so justly proud. These stud the river, which varies at different points from two to five miles in width. The isles on the left side going up the river belong to the Americans, and on the right side to the Canadians. The isles belonging to the Dominion are leased out. They are for the most part very small, but villas are built on them, and the said villas are occupied in the summer and closed in the winter months. In point of fact these isles are only taken by persons who can afford two houses.

Down the St. Lawrence we go, wondering when the 5,000,000 on the one side will be swallowed up by the hundred millions on the other side. We stop at Kingston for two hours, and look at the Cathedral (the old parish Church) there, and steaming on reach Deseronto in the cool of a June evening, to spend Sunday there.

In Canada there is no State Church, and all denominations are alike dependent on voluntary subscriptions. So on Sunday when the plate is handed round at church, you find it crammed, not with money, but with envelopes and bits of paper. This is explained as a Canadian System. According to your means, you purchase so many dollar's worth of tickets at the beginning of the year, and in this way the revenue for the current year is estimated, apart from any chance subscriptions from time to time.

At Toronto, I paid one of my first visits to Patteson, the sporting Postmaster there. He had had me put down for one of the clubs, and I had been heralded to him by English relations. He had been an Eton and Oxford man, and although early domiciled in Canada, had by frequent visits kept well in touch with the old country. Originally called to the English Bar, he had, for long years, been one of Sir John Macdonald's strongest supporters on "The Mail," the principal conservative newspaper, and was ultimately given the Postmastership of Toronto. In addition to this he is Vice-President of the Toronto Jockey Club, and a great breeder of horses. However, more of him anon. I do some yachting on Lake Ontario and

also go over Trinity College—very much like a small Oxford or Cambridge college—where I also dine one evening with one of the Professors.

After some very pleasant days at Toronto, I leave for that eighth wonder of the world, Niagara. A two hours' boat passage across Lake Ontario, and then we train it along the Niagara river and falls the whole length as far as Chippewa, and then retrace to the Niagara falls, where we drive across the suspension bridge, and put up on the American side at the hotel called "Prospect House," and a very comfortable hotel too. When I said, we trained along the river, that was hardly correct, as we went by electric car, and you want a fairly good head for the twists and curves if you are watching the seething, foaming water far below, as you skirt the edge of the cliffs very closely at times. At first the noise of "The Falls" is very deafening, but after a day you get accustomed to it. And its grandeur I will make no attempt to dilate upon.

I leave Niagara for Buffalo to meet the Toronto sporting Postmaster, who is judging at a Horse Show there. Buffalo is in America, and you at once notice how much plumper American women are than Canadian women. Owing to some technical difficulty Patteson does not judge after all, and we go off together to his country place at Eastwood, near Woodstock, for Sunday. It is about 70 miles from Toronto. Our late Secretary, Sir Arthur Blackwood, who had a son in the country, had also stayed here; Patteson forming a strong intermediate connexion betwixt Englishmen and Canadians. Down at Eastwood, Patteson had three brood mares, 16 three year olds, and seven yearlings. The place is pretty, and he owns about 725 acres.

On Sunday he drove me to the place now called "The Death Swamp," where a young Englishman, Benwell, was about four years ago murdered by an Englishman named Birchall. The murder attracted some attention at the time, and particularly interested me, as I knew the murdered man slightly, and he had been assisting me in some amateur theatricals in England six weeks before he was killed. The scene of the murder was well-called the "Death Swamp," and the astonishing thing is—looking back at the murder and its surroundings—what slight circumstances bring a murderer to book. The main difficulty is not the murder, which can be planned out very deliberately in cold blood, but to be able to keep a cool, calculating head on your shoulders afterwards. But for this, Birchall might still have been at large.

That Sunday night, sitting smoking after dinner on the Verandah at Eastwood, I got thoroughly well bitten round the neck, and over the hands, by the mosquitos. This cheered me up, and I came to the conclusion, that, in spite of advancing years, I still had the power of giving enjoyment to others. After no rain for days and days, and glorious sunshine all the time (thermometer about 80 in the shade), at last a long and vivid thunderstorm supervened. Unlike England, the lightning flashed away without any stop or stay for the thunder. This thunderstorm lasted from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., and there was no possibility of sleep so long as it continued its violent course.

Toronto once again! I am taken off to Prof. Goldwin Smith's "At Home," he and his wife having just returned from England. The quondam Oxford Professor is now just past 70, but carries his years well. Slim and spare of figure, he still is constantly employed writing, and his intellectual fibre is as keen and active as of yore. At the request of Oxford friends he was having his portrait painted by a Canadian artist (Grier), to be eventually hung in the Bodleian. The Goldwin Smiths have a charming house covered with Virginian creepers, and standing in very large grounds in the centre of the town.

From Toronto I hurry back to Montreal, put up once more at the Windsor Hotel, have a last drive round Mont Royal, and embark on "The Parisian" for England.

Before quitting the subject of Canada, I wish to say a few words on some general matters. Toronto has a typical racecourse, in fact the best that I saw. The Canadians have mud, not grass tracks, and this on account of their very hot, dry summers. A grass course would be like adamant out there, whereas these earth tracks can be harrowed two or three days before the races come off. You have the gauntlet of wet to run then, which often leads to the races being postponed. The Toronto course is in oval shape, and one mile round, the start and finish for a mile race being opposite the grand stand. Lake Ontario is on the far side of the course, and the centre of the course is all grass. There is a small paddock and a very commodious grand stand, much as you find in England. The Toronto races are held towards the end of May, and Patteson, who is vice-president of the Toronto Jockey Club, is also one of the moving spirits in the whole affair.

Now for a few words on the subject of food. You are on the *en pension* system, and the bill of fare for breakfast, luncheon, and dinner is very pretentious. A little is good and a little is bad. A

large percentage is very indifferent. Tea and coffee are included in each meal, and chocolate and cocoa at breakfast only. With respect to alcoholic beverages, take the local ales, and not Allsopp, Bass, or Guinness. For these last you pay exactly double, owing to the freightage and high duties consequent upon being in a protected country. The local ales (except Dow's) are light, and suit a summer temperature of 80 odd in the shade. Avoid the wines, unless you wish to pay about a third more all round than you do in England. The native wines are odious to an Englishman's palate. claret-coloured syrup best describes them.

The electric cars are a great feature in large towns in Canada, and take the place of our tram-cars and omnibuses. It is a swift and cheap mode of progression, and they are used for Post Office purposes to and from stations. This is a good opportunity for me to state that I went to Canada on a real holiday, and saw nothing of Post Offices, except the buildings and the public counters. Both very much on the lines of banks in England. As we understand civility, you see extremely little of that commodity in Canada. I never saw a poor man put his hand to his cap the whole time I was out there. And on my leaving the Queen's Hotel, at Toronto, I found my hand (with no voluntary effort on my part) firmly and lovingly clasped in the hands of "the boots" in a final and affectionate farewell.

The Canadian women are slim, elegant, of good height, and of fair complexion. They look fragile, and I believe, as a rule, are not robust. Their climate militates against this. Their summers are too hot and their winters too cold, and they practically have no spring or autumn. This induces an absence of exercise and an indoor life.

Surveying Staff,  
Cheltenham.

A. G. BABINGTON.

## What's in a Name ?

“Parcels are despatched in five different kinds of receptacles.”—*Official Instructions.*



RAY observe, this designation  
 Is of general application ;  
 By one name the five descriptions that are kept I call ;  
 Barrel, basket, bag, sack, box  
 Are not strictly orthodox ;  
 The correct denomination is Receptacle.

I like a pretty word,  
 Aye, and many a one I've heard,  
 Such as *fin de siècle* rhymesters are adept to cull,  
 But never have I found  
 One so musical in sound  
 As the authorised official term Receptacle.

Do you doubt when I proclaim  
 The attraction of the name ?  
 Take a mandolin and sing it, if you're sceptical ;  
 Tiralo ! the carol swells  
 Like a melody of bells,  
 And you feel the fascination of Receptacle.

T. S. CLARKE.

## *The proposed Widows' and Orphans' Annuity Fund.*

[On the 14th May a dinner was given at the Holborn Restaurant in the honour of Mr. Herbert Price (Registrar, Secretary's Office), to whom the success of the Post Office Mutual Guarantee Association is so largely due. In replying to the toast of his health, Mr. Price took the opportunity of developing his idea of an Annuity Fund, and we reprint here so much of the proceedings as refer to that matter.]

**H**would (said Mr. Price) remind those of you who take an interest in questions of self-help and thrift that the Post Office is still without its Postal and Telegraph Employés' Widows' and Orphans' Annuity Fund, and it was natural that Sir Robert Hunter, when he recently presided at the annual meeting of our Benevolent Fund, should express surprise that the department which had produced the Civil Service Supply Association and the Post Office Employés' Guarantee Association, had not also produced a Post Office Employés' Widows' Annuity Fund. To my mind it is not only a matter for surprise, it is more. I feel that it is not creditable to us that whilst the State provides annuities for us in our old age, we have not taken care to provide annuities for those near and dear to us we may leave behind. It is for us to remove this stigma by doing it forthwith. If to-night we can take a practical step forward, towards the establishment of a Postal and Telegraph Employés' Widows' and Orphans' Annuity Fund, this gathering will have served some useful purpose. I know several of those here present earnestly desire to see such a fund established, and the letters I have received from all parts of the United Kingdom demonstrate to my mind the fact that officers of the Postal and Telegraph Service generally are in earnest about it also. As you all know, the subject has been before us for very many years, but to the present time, nothing practical has been done.

When in February, 1894, I submitted a scheme and asked the Shareholders of the Post Office Guarantee Association for £500 to carry it through, I did not think I should again have the opportunity of giving my attention to it; but after a brief interval I found that I again had the opportunity, and was able to devote time and attention to the subject. Further, the funds needed to ensure not only the inauguration of the scheme but its success also have been forthcoming, and there remains now comparatively little to be done. You will no doubt remember that the scheme formulated by me in February, 1894, was followed a few months later by an almost identical scheme issued by the Civil Service Insurance Society. These almost identical schemes, though sound in theory, proved to be too costly to be popular, and they involved sacrifices too great for men of small means, many of whom had already incurred considerable liabilities with a view to meet, in other ways, the object we had in view. It was necessary therefore to modify the proposals, and the problems to be solved were briefly :—1. A minimum or practically no additional outlay; 2. No medical disqualification; 3. An annuity certain; 4. Actuarial soundness; 5. Provision for orphans as well as widows; 6. Greater simplicity; and many correspondents required this further condition: 7. The return of their contributions should they not leave widows. Well, gentlemen, the modified proposal of the Civil Service Insurance Society has appeared, and I regret to say that to me it is a great disappointment, and several of the conditions I have named have not been complied with. No “annuity certain” is promised or considered possible, and without it no scheme can be satisfactory. Medical fitness is required, thus disqualifying many cases and those the most pressing ones. I venture to express the hope that the scheme which will shortly be proposed will not only provide “annuities certain,” but will otherwise prove satisfactory and will fairly meet all the conditions set forth. Some of the gentlemen here present who are acquainted with its details, have suggested that at this friendly gathering a provisional committee should be formed of about a dozen members, with power to add to their number, to settle without further delay its rules and regulations. It is for you, if you think fit, to act on that suggestion. Some people say it is unnecessary to have a Post Office scheme at all, but from this I entirely dissent. We know our own requirements better than other Civil Servants know them, and, with our commercial and official, rather than exclusively official training, we think we do these things better than our colleagues in other Government departments;

besides, we are subject to regulations which do not apply to other Government officers. For instance, while the Civil Service Insurance Society invites its members to tout for life insurance business for the particular office it has bestowed its patronage upon, and informs members of the Service that agents' commission will be allowed on business they introduce—a not altogether dignified proceeding—we, and I venture to think rightly so, are precluded by the regulations of the Postmaster-General from engaging in such proceedings, and thereby is denied us a means of adding to our income from time to time small sums which might have been devoted to our Widows' Fund. We have, however, I think, already secured more than adequate compensation in the superior arrangements we have made with the Royal Insurance Company for insuring our lives. Then, again, many thousand of Post Office employés are absolutely shut out from participation in the scheme promulgated by the Civil Service Insurance Society by some of the conditions imposed, and what, to my mind, is fatal to that scheme as regards our Service is the fact that it would not apply to any of our 17,500 colleagues whose sole provision for their widows, should they leave widows, is the amount payable by the United Kingdom Postal and Telegraph Service Benevolent Society. Although not a member of that society, and not particularly favourable to what is known as the “assessment” principle, which is the principle of that society, I recognise the immense good it has done in the Post Office, and the able manner in which it is conducted; and I am as anxious as any of its members can be that they should not be placed at a disadvantage as regards a widows' fund, the tendency of which might be to render them dissatisfied with their organisation. Our official chiefs are amongst the patrons of that society, and anything which would injure it or cause its decline would not only reflect upon us all, but would be a Post Office calamity. Whilst on this subject I should like to issue a word of warning as regards assessment societies in general. There are now several in the Post Office, and others are springing up around us. Some of the members of such organisations regard them as being insurance companies. The authors of one confined to the Post Office have gone so far as to call theirs “The Post Office Insurance Society.” Well, gentlemen, without any disparagement of it, I may say it is not “The Post Office Insurance Society,” and what is more, it is not an insurance society at all. These societies at best are only benevolent or benefit societies, and as a general rule result in taxing their younger members for the benefit of the representatives



of their older members. As regards our own Service, I find that gentlemen of position in the Service have been invited, and some have become "patrons" of these societies. I trust that I may be pardoned if I venture to express a hope that all who have done so have examined the principles upon which the societies they thus stand sponsors for are based, and, if they have not done so in the past, will do so for the future, and also satisfy themselves that they are fair and sound before they consent to become "patrons." Again, no Post Office scheme would be complete unless it were available for the thousands of Post Office employ  s who, whilst not recognised Civil Servants inasmuch as they do not hold Civil Service certificates and are in consequence not entitled to pension, are as much entitled to be considered in this matter as their more fortunate colleagues. Another argument why we should have a widows' fund of our own, is that, hitherto, we have invariably been much ahead of other public departments in regard to life insurance and other schemes of self-help and benevolence. For instance, our life premiums have for very many years been payable by means of deductions from our salaries, and, until the late Viscount Sherbrooke, I think it was, interfered, we received allowances amounting to about 15 per cent. of the premiums on policies not exceeding £300 as an encouragement to insure. This payment, as you know, came from funds then regarded as being under the exclusive control of the Postmaster-General. The payment of our life premiums by means of deductions from our salaries has formed the valuable precedent which has resulted in the practice being extended to practically the whole Civil Service. We have always appreciated this arrangement very highly, and regarded it as a great boon. I should like here to repeat a story once told me on the subject by an eminent Civil Servant (since deceased) showing how near we came to losing this boon. When Mr. Blackwood (afterwards Sir Arthur Blackwood) was sent from the Treasury to the Post Office with instructions to reform its financial arrangements, it was stated that the only irregularity he discovered was the practice which obtained at the Post Office, under the sole authority of the Postmaster-General, of paying our life insurance premiums by means of deductions from salaries. The practice, it appears, cost the state some hundreds a year, and had not received Treasury sanction. Mr. Blackwood, who was extremely conscientious, felt it his duty to report the matter to the Treasury, and "My Lords" were of course greatly shocked, and directed the then Postmaster-General (Lord John Manners) to discontinue the practice

forthwith. Lord John Manners remonstrated, pointed out the advantages of the arrangement, the convenience it was to his employés, and the encouragement it was to thrift. He also urged that many of those benefited by the arrangement received weekly wages of small amounts, and expressed the hope that "My Lords" would not only allow the practice to continue, but give it the sanction of their high authority. "My Lords" were obdurate, and sent peremptory instructions that the practice should cease. It was fortunate for us that Lord John Manners was Postmaster-General at the time, and that he was also a Cabinet Minister, and I think you will all agree with me that we owe him a debt of gratitude for the noble stand he at once made. Lord John Manners, so far from obeying "My Lords," replied that he considered the arrangement of such importance to the staff under his control that he absolutely declined to give the instruction "My Lords" had indicated, and that, if they insisted upon the discontinuance of the practice, they must issue the necessary instructions themselves. I need hardly say that "My Lords," rather than face the inevitable Cabinet crisis which such contumacy might have involved, suppressed their outraged feelings, and let the matter drop. Well, gentlemen, later on Sir Arthur Blackwood became our chief, and I have heard that it became part of his creed that the Post Office was the public department which was efficiently managed, and that every successive Postmaster-General shared that opinion. For my own part I accept it as an article of my faith. I would just say one word more. There are always some pessimists who predict failure, and look on the black side of everything new. Some such I have met who do not believe in a widows' scheme at all. To them I say, if they do not, they need not join it. The loss will not be theirs, but their widows', if they should leave widows. On the other hand, the advantages to those who do join will be all the greater. Already, from the operation of our fire and burglary business we are in receipt of an income which represents a capital sum of nearly £8,000, and this business is growing. When it becomes generally known that such business materially assists our Widows' and Orphans' Fund, it will, I venture to think, grow rapidly. We have, in addition, promises of other aid. If only a few members of the Service should join the proposed fund, our already existing resources will provide a handsome addition to any annuities which may become payable, whilst, on the other hand, should the scheme be generally accepted, its merits alone will make it the greater success. Personally I do not

entertain a shadow of a doubt that the scheme will be an unqualified success, and that, like other Post Office schemes, it will be the model upon which other departments of the Service will construct or reconstruct their funds. Let our object be to make it not only a great success, but the envy, the admiration, and the model of all existing institutions of the kind. I thank you, gentlemen, for your kindness to me to-night, and for the attention with which you have listened to the outline of a scheme which may prove of some benefit to those who, as a rule, are not the best able to help themselves.

Mr. GREER proposed that a provisional committee from amongst those present be at once appointed, with power to add to their number.

Mr. HART seconded the motion, which was forthwith carried out, with the result that the following gentlemen were elected:—Mr. J. W. Crawford, Mr. F. McDonnell, Mr. A. H. Powell, and Mr. E. A. Sanderson, London Postal Service; Mr. J. P. Ekins, Redhill; Mr. A. Fraser, Gravesend; Mr. H. C. Hart, Telegraph department; Mr. F. Hill and Mr. J. Greer, S.W. district; Mr. T. E. James, Stockport; Mr. G. G. Kent, Surveyors' department; Mr. I. J. Sealy, Savings Bank department; Mr. J. Walker, Receiver and Accountant-General's department; Mr. E. Winter, Solicitor's department, and Mr. H. Price.

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## *Round and about the Scilly Islands.*

### PART I.

**I**N virtue of the office I formerly held as Postmaster of all England west of Penzance, it has fallen to my lot, on divers occasions during the past thirty years, to cross the strip of water separating the Scilly Islands from the mainland. I have crossed it in a dead calm when a Thames wherry would not have shipped a bucketful of water. I have crossed it in a pea-soup fog, when from the bridge one could not see the taffrail, nor the jibboom-end from the forecandle. I have crossed it in the teeth of a south-easter, when the little craft of 40-horse power nominal—the smallest mail steamer afloat, I believe—rolled gunwale under, and buried herself from stem to stern in the tremendous seas to be met with off the Wolf. But, crossing under all these conditions, I never remember a time when there was not something to be learnt, some incident which wells up in the memory in going over the retrospect of so many years. It has occurred to me that some account of these trips, and the knowledge obtained of the islands, historically, commercially, socially, and postally, after so long a connection, may not be without interest to the readers of *St. Martin's*. It is true I have, to some extent, been forestalled by men like Leonard Courtney, Walter Besant, Clement Scott, G. R. Sims, and other writers of more or less repute; but as their works stand on a pinnacle mine are never likely to reach, I do not think I shall trench on their ground in the slight sketch I am about to offer.

First, then, as to the islands themselves. A traveller, standing on the Land's End point and facing about west by south, may see on a clear day, low down on the horizon, a bank of land with a long stretch of sand glittering in the sun. This is St. Martin's, the northernmost island of the group, some twenty-five miles distant. Further around the coast, in the neighbourhood of the North Cliffs, St. Just, under certain atmospheric conditions which are a sure precursor of rain, one may make out the entire group of islands,

with the day-mark on St. Martin's Head and the lighthouse on Round Island standing boldly out in the foreground. The islands are situated in lat. 49 deg. 57 min. north, and long. 6 deg. 45 min. west. The distance from pier to pier—that is, from Penzance to St. Mary's—is reckoned as forty miles. The contract time for the mails is four hours; but this is subject to so many fluctuations, and hedged about by the saving clause “wind and weather permitting,” that, practically, it amounts to a go-as-you-please sort of a contract, it being left to the discretion of the commander of the packet whether he can make the passage or not. I have covered the distance in a little over three hours, and I have been ten hours “feeling for the land,” being so uncertain of our position that we hardly knew whether we should make Peninnis Head or Menewithan.

To those who have squared the yards with old Father Neptune the voyage is most enjoyable; but for a landsman, with a tendency to vomit the very heels off his boots, and to turn himself inside out every time the ship makes her bow to the big Atlantic seas, it is one long-drawn agony. I think it was the present Archbishop of Canterbury—formerly Bishop of Cornwall—who said, on paying a visit to that remote part of his diocese, that before the steamer sailed he was afraid she would founder, but before he got half way across he prayed that she might, to put him out of his misery. Hugging the land along the western shore of Mount's Bay, and passing in succession the places I have described in former articles, when just abreast of Tol Pelyn, at which point the land trends rapidly westward, a course is shaped to take you some mile or so to the northward of the Wolf Rock, the solitary tower on which soon looms out against the sky line. By the time the Wolf is reached, a kind of half-way house on your journey, most of the passengers have paid their libations to the Sea God, and are lying about in various attitudes of abject misery. The residuum, whose legs still perform their office, and whose eyes are not bleared and jaundiced, clutch frantically at the standing rigging, and peer into the distance on the look out for land, which presently, faint and shadowy, appears on the starboard bow. If the state of the tide permits, the passage is through Crow Sound, having St. Martin's and Tresco on the right hand, and St. Mary's on the left; but there is a bar stretching across from St. Mary's to Tresco, covered at spring tides with only a few feet of water, and to avoid this, entrance often has to be made through St. Mary's Sound between St. Agnes and St. Mary's, passing around the grand old headland of Peninnis.

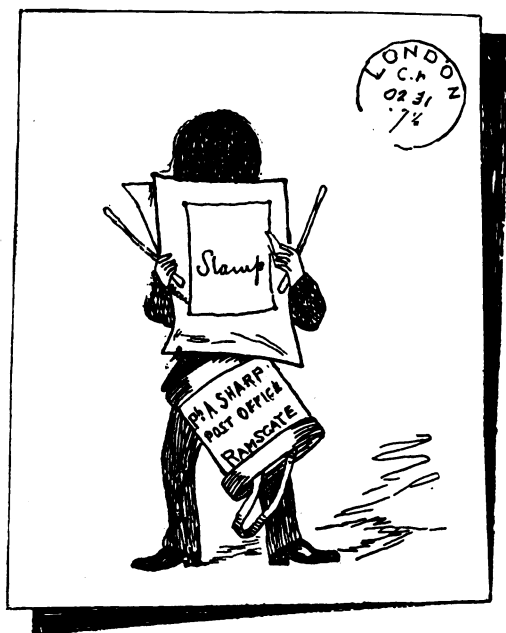
What the advent of the tourist season is to a lot of hungry continental landlords, thirsting for the Yankees' and the Britishers' dollars, the arrival of the steamer is to the Scillonians. Her approach has been signalled nearly an hour before by dropping the ball at the tower on St. Martin's Head, and all "the beauty and the chivalry" of St. Mary's flock to the pier. Next to a Scot, there is no one who knows the value of "saxpence" better than a thoroughbred Scillonian. Rigidly just and upright in all his dealings, and thrifty almost to penuriousness, he may be trusted to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market with any other man this side of Dixie. Now, in connection with the arrival of the steamer, there are lots of odd jobs knocking about. Boats have to be engaged, lodgings secured, luggage transferred, and so on; hence the wide-awake natives are on the alert to turn an honest penny in various ways. When I first visited the islands, and for many years afterwards, there was only one hotel in the place. (It should be explained that the Queen's taxes in respect to inns do not run on the islands, and anybody can keep a "Pub" with the consent of the Governor.) This was kept by Captain Frank Tregarthen, of immortal memory, and about whom presently I may have more to say. Captain Tregarthen, familiarly called "Cap'n Frank," was—he has long ago gone over to the majority—representative of a type now fast dying out, having none of the glitter and tinsel of the latter-day quarter-deck mariner, but every inch a sailor, brave and resourceful under difficulties, yet kind and gentle as a woman. Many a time when I have been pitched into the lee-scuppers, and hardly cared whether I lived or died, has the cheery voice of Cap'n Frank, with his "Look 'ee here my hearty," nerved me for another struggle, and quieted the qualms of my poor tortured stomach. Cap'n Frank was commander of the Mail Packet, and was as proud of her as if she had been the Victoria and Albert; her decks were scraped and holy-stoned, and the brass-work about the companion and binnacle shone like a mirror. In those days, there was this peculiarity about Scilly—the moment you cast off from Penzance Pier you were launched into space, and knew nothing of the world and its doings till Cap'n Frank chose to bring you back again. This might vary from a couple of days to a week, according to the condition of the weather, or the state of the larder. Cap'n Frank was his own caterer, and, carrying his guests with him, could make pretty well sure that they could not run away till the last joint had been picked, and the carcasses of the last pair of fowls lay bleaching in the sun. Now-a-days there are at

least two butchers' shops on the islands, and fish, flesh, and fowl may be had in abundance ; but at the time of which I speak, thirty years ago, the staple food of the people was "buckhorn"—a kind of pollack salted and dried in the sun—and rye bread grown on the scanty soil of the place. Whether they performed the anatomical feat of "killing half a bullock at a time," as they were reputed to do, I will not vouch for, but certain it is that they took the precaution of selling the animal, from hoofs to horns, before they slaughtered it, each customer agreeing to take a particular joint. The consequence was that if one happened to be weather-bound at Scilly after the public demand had been satisfied in this way, one had to buy a whole bullock or sheep on one's own hook—rather a large order for an occasional wayfarer—or starve in a land of plenty.

Maidstone.

J. G. UREN.

*(To be continued.)*



HUMOURS OF THE POST OFFICE.

(From a block kindly lent by the Proprietors of the *Strand Magazine*.)

## *Southampton Post Office.*

**T**HERE are few towns in England to which more interest attaches than to that of Southampton. Its antiquity is very great ; on its beautiful common and in other places have been found flint implements telling of pre-historic times ; at Clausentum close by, the Romans had a settlement ; and it was on the shore of Southampton river that King Canute rebuked his courtiers in such noble words as these :—

“ Let all the inhabitants of the earth know that vain and trifling is the power of Kings, and that none is worthy of the name of King but He whose nod the heaven, earth and sea obey by laws eternal.”

In Norman times the town was of much importance as a fortress and a seaport ; it was the home of kings, and there are still fine remains of palaces, walls, and gates. Standing in St. Michael's Square is a mansion still in good condition, where, it is said, Henry VIII. resided with Anne Boleyn when he visited the town ; a short distance from this mansion is the High Street with its noted Bargate, south of which stood the first recorded Southampton Post Office. This was of a very humble character, and its staff consisted of a Postmistress, who performed all of the duties herself. The Office was subsequently removed to another by-street, to a house of historic character, the birth-place in fact of Dr. Isaac Watts.

A curious circumstance occasioned the next removal. A petition of the inhabitants for the reduction of the London postal rate from 9d. to 8d. elicited the fact that the Post Office was just outside the necessary mileage from St. Martin's-le-Grand, but that a removal of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile northwards would bring it within the desired radius. It was accordingly located in a street just above the Bargate, and two years later the rate was reduced to 4d. In 1840, at the introduction of the penny post, the staff comprised the postmaster, 4 clerks and 9 letter-carriers (town and rural), although it is within the recollection



of persons still living that the delivery for the whole town was performed by two letter-carriers, one of whom was of the gentler sex. It may be mentioned here that in 1879 the town staff numbered 183, and at the present time is close upon 300. The last transfer, as far as site is concerned, was in 1860 to a large private house (now demolished), said to be of the period of Queen Elizabeth, in which was a fine room wherein, if tradition may be trusted, that queen was



NEW POST OFFICE, SOUTHAMPTON.

entertained. The room was last occupied by the Postmaster's personal staff, and great regret was felt that it was necessary to destroy it with the rest of the old structure, whose outward face was, however, of the plainest kind.

The latest and recently opened building was commenced on the same site in June, 1892, and on the 5th November following an

interesting function took place, when the Mayor, accompanied by the Corporation in their robes, laid the foundation stone. The ceremony was witnessed by a large number of citizens, and was followed by a luncheon at the Audit House, the Mayor in the evening entertaining the staff at supper. The building, however, advanced slowly, and it was not until the 8th December last that it could be used for public business. On that date another Mayor, with the Corporation, visited the new office, and declared it open, likewise marking the propitious occasion with a lunch. The staff met at dinner on the 12th December, when mutual congratulations were exchanged.

The new building was designed by Mr. H. Tanner, of the Office of Works, and has a very imposing appearance, rising to the height of about 65 feet, and giving throughout an idea of beauty and strength; it is one of the most pleasing of Mr. Tanner's conceptions, and is regarded by all as a credit to the department, and an ornament to the town. The style is French Renaissance, and the materials used were buff bricks and decorated *terra cotta*. The sorting room is 191 feet long, with an average width of 45 feet, and there are good offices, lifts, and excellent cellarage for storage and heating apparatus.

The postal and telegraph work at Southampton is very extensive, and of late, from various causes, has greatly increased; principally from the impetus given to business by the acquisition of the docks by the London & South Western Railway Company, and the advent of the New York line of steamers, of which the splendid ships "St. Louis," "New York," and "Paris" form part.

Southampton has been a most important port for foreign mails for many years. Formerly the P. and O. line had its home here, but forsook it for London; and for a time the loss was keenly felt. This blow has, however, long since been recovered from, and the port is now probably the most important in the kingdom in relation to foreign mails, for here is the starting point of the Royal Mail line to the W. Indies, Brazils, and River Plate; the Union Line to S. Africa; the American line to New York. In addition to these, the Castle line to the Cape, the fine vessels of the North German Lloyd, the Rotterdam Lloyd, and Hamburg-American lines call for and with mails and passengers. It thus happens that in full seasons there are four arrivals and as many departures of New York liners every week. Add to these the steamers of the London & South Western Railway Company to the Channel Islands and the North of France, and it will be seen that the amount of postal work must be very heavy. In the year 1894 about 100,000 bags of mails were transferred

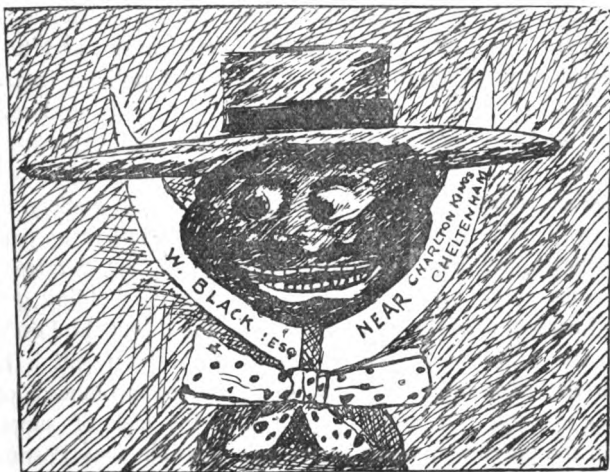
at the docks, besides a very large number of boxes of parcels, all of which were checked and despatched by officers of the Southampton staff.

The importance of the town has recently been appreciably added to by the Government having made it the port for the embarkation and landing of troops in place of Portsmouth. It is hardly necessary to say that the enormous passenger traffic gives rise to a very large amount of telegraph work; officers are sent to the docks to receive telegrams from passengers just landed or about to start, and the facilities the Post Office gives in this direction are much appreciated. The signal station at Hurst Castle, far away down the lovely waters of the Solent, is worked by the Southampton staff, and a very important duty these officers have to perform, the passing of ships up and down having to be signalled during both day and night.

The picture of the new office is from a photograph taken by two amateur artists belonging to the Southampton staff—Messrs. Witt and Noar.

Southampton.

E. R. CARTER.



HUMOURS OF THE POST OFFICE.

(From a block kindly lent by the Proprietors of the *Strand Magazine*.)

## *Civil Service Insurance.*

**F**IVE years is not a very long span in the life of an institution, any more than it is in the life of an individual. But it has been long enough in the case of the Civil Service Insurance Society to enable it to build up a business amongst a single class of insurers which would not disgrace a Company or an Association dealing with all classes. The Society, in fact, will not be five years old until next September, and yet at the end of last year it had nearly 12,600 policies on its books, insuring a total sum not far short of *three and a half millions sterling*, and yielding annual premiums somewhat in excess of £120,000. During the first two years of its existence, when insurers were admitted without medical examination, and under a very simple proposal form, the total number of policies issued was 11,475, insuring a total sum exceeding *three millions sterling*. In 1893 the number of policies was 542 for close upon £130,000; and in 1894, the respective totals were 581 for upwards of £146,000, so that there is a steady increase in the business of the Society. The number of Post Office insurers is about four thousand, or 25 per cent. of the whole, and these embrace all ranks of the Service, from postmen and sorters upwards, the same percentage holding good of the new business as of the old. Bearing in mind that the Post Office is by far the largest of the public departments, this result is hardly equal to the expectations formed of it by the promoters of the Insurance Society. It would appear that the lack of support is mainly in the provinces, and it seems just possible that Postmasters may be under the impression that by pushing the Society amongst their staff they may be acting in violation of the departmental rule which forbids their acting as insurance agents. But we should imagine that this can hardly be so, seeing that the Society is a purely Service organization, that it exists under the highest official sanction, that it had for its first President the late Secretary to the

Treasury, and has for one of its Vice Presidents the Secretary to the Post Office. The Society is not directly engaged in the business of Life Insurance, but has made arrangements with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company whereby Civil Servants may insure their lives on the most advantageous terms, and with the Treasury whereby the premiums are deducted from the insurer's salary and paid over in bulk. Every description of Life Insurance is transacted on behalf of the members of the Society, and it would appear that the "Endowment Policy" is the favourite form at present—a policy which is at once an investment and an insurance.

Besides Life Insurance, the Society has made arrangements for Fire, Burglary, and Accident insurance—for fire with the Imperial Insurance Company, and for burglary and accident with the Law Accident and Contingency Insurance Society. This is a comparatively recent departure, but it is a most important one for the Service, because, in addition to the substantial concessions obtained from the Companies in the matter of premiums and conditions of insurance, a considerable sum according to the amount of business done is handed over to the Society, and is devoted to a Fund out of which it is proposed to grant annuities to the widows and orphans of the members. So considerable is the business transacted under these heads, that already a sum exceeding one thousand pounds has been received towards the Fund in question, and it is confidently hoped that when the Fire, Burglary and Accident insurance business has been fully developed, a most substantial supplemental income will be secured in this way. The formation of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund has been a matter of long and anxious consideration with the Council of the Society, but it is hoped that daylight is beginning to appear, and that before long a feasible scheme will be put before the members. Certain proposals and tables have been under consideration by Mr. R. P. Hardy, Vice-President of the Institute of Actuaries; but it is feared that the high rate of premium and the low rate of interest which he regards as the only safe basis on which a solvent fund could be established, will prevent the launching of the original scheme. As an alternative the Council propose what is known as the "Bonus and Discount Assignment Scheme," under which a member holding a "with profits" policy of insurance shall assign the bonuses accruing from time to time and the discount allowed annually off his premiums, to the Fund, the rate of annuity to depend on the condition of the Fund, and to be declared from year to year at a certain percentage

on the capital sum of the policy on which the assignment had been made. It is pointed out that "such a Fund would always be solvent, even without extraneous aid," although it would benefit considerably by the "supplemental income" derived from the Fire, Accident, and Burglary insurance business already referred to. The failure of the original scheme will probably cause regret on the part of some of the members, but not of those who realise the immense difficulties attendant upon annuity business—difficulties which have been greatly aggravated by the declining rates of interest on all securities accessible to funds of the kind. Mr. Hardy, indeed, puts the rate as low as  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., which looks like being the only safe calculation of the future, as compared with the good old 5 per cent. rate of twenty years ago, or less.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held at the end of April last, several new features were announced as the outcome of the permanent deed concluded with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, which takes the place of the provisional agreement hitherto in force. The chief point is the inclusion of female Civil Servants in the scheme of the Society, a concession of great importance to the Postal Service. Other points are: the special endorsement of policies so as to specify the benefits to which the holder is entitled; the collective receipt given to a Department by the Company to be proof of payment of each premium, and the rights of individual policy-holders to separate receipts to be preserved; and an undertaking by the Company to notify quarterly to the Society every premium due and not received from a Civil Servant insuring through the Society, 30 days being allowed for clearing up all such cases, without prejudice to the assured. The Life Insurance scheme is, therefore, now on a complete and satisfactory basis—a result largely due to the consummate Generalship of Sir Ralph Knox, K.C.B., Accountant-General of the Army, who is Chairman of the Council; to Messrs. Brice and Huggett, the original secretaries of the Society; and to Mr. S. J. Bennett, who has recently succeeded Mr. Huggett.

The Civil Service at large owes a debt of gratitude to the authorities of the War Office, who have always looked with favour on the scheme of Civil Service insurance, and who have placed their handsome committee room in Pall Mall at the disposal of the Society for its meetings. The writer has the pleasantest recollections of the long series of meetings held there when the Society was in process of inception, and has often felt since how valuable it is for a Civil

Servant to mix with men of other departments than his own. It was here that he met with Mr. Benjamin Kidd, who has since become famous as the author of "Social Evolution," and who, as a member of the Council, takes a deep interest in the affairs of the Society. Although located at the War Office, the Society is in no sense a departmental one. It belongs to no department, but to all departments, and has its agents equally at the East End as the West, equally in Thames Street as in Whitehall. Nor only so, for its ramifications extend both to Scotland and Ireland, and it is no less ably represented in Her Majesty's Exchequer at Edinburgh than in the Chief Secretary's Office in Dublin. The Post Office has some eight or ten members on the Council, and four members on the Committee of Management. It follows, therefore, that something is expected of it, and now is the time to fulfil the expectation, for it has just been announced that "all participating policies in the books of the Society at 31st December, 1895, will rank for a bonus addition." It is too late in the day to expatiate on the benefits, not to say the duty, of Life Insurance, but it is not too late to mention that the *net annual saving* to members of the Society from the discount allowed on premiums amounts to more than £18,000, of which probably as much as £5,000 finds its way into the pockets of Post Office insurers. The amount ought to be at least twice as much, and it probably will be before another quinquennial period comes round.

R. W. J.

## After Office Hours.

### At Westminster again with a difference.

IN Mr. Barrie's novel *The Little Minister*, there is a very delightful human touch in the portrait of the hero. Just at the time when he feels himself most under the spell of Babbie he is the bitterest in the pulpit against the influence of women. He feels himself on an inclined plane and he is making frantic efforts, as he thinks, to regain his footing. But he is really making no effort at all; his acts belie his strong and vapid words; he is a willing victim to the evil influence against which he preaches. And when I wrote in our last issue certain brave and rhetorical sentences concerning my attachment to the City of Westminster I fear I was only persuading myself that I was doing my best to save a lost position. For at the very moment when I was implying that I intended to die within the sound of Big Ben, a gay Bohemian bachelor of curious antiquarian and strange political tastes, I was committing acts of unfaithfulness to the mistress who was so arousing my enthusiasm. Moreover, I was spending most of my leisure time, not, as I implied, in the Abbey, or at Charing Cross, but in a distant suburb, a traitor alike to my own Bohemian principles and the city of my choice. The result is I shall have to say good-bye to Westminster. Like Benedick, "when I said I would die a bachelor I did not think I should live till I were married." I speak of course in metaphors, and of my union with the City of Westminster. On that union a *decree nisi* has been pronounced, and before the next issue of the magazine the *decree* will be made absolute. I am leaving Big Ben, the Abbey, Charing Cross, the Westminster police, and the House of Commons, and I am doing this with malice aforethought. I receive many letters of sympathy, and letters too of expostulation and irritation at my fickleness. There are, it appears, many dull and unimaginative people who cannot understand that to some temperaments the mere holding of a certain opinion at one time or even on one day of one's life is not inconsistent with the holding of the direct opposite opinion at another time. Consistency of character is a far more important matter than consistency of opinion, and if I swear eternal allegiance to the City of Westminster one day and abandon her the next, is it not possible that I may be obeying some higher law than by adhering slavishly to one set of opinions? Besides, Westminster herself changes so much, and appears so differently at different times to the same individual. So much depends upon the point of view. I spoke in our last number of the glory of Charing Cross, of the intoxication of spirit created by the contact with so much life, of my passion for a crowd, and of the inspiration I received by contact with the great realities of life "which possess and dominate a great thoroughfare." I cannot quite



account for this particular utterance because, at the time I wrote it, I was devoting all my attention to avoiding crowds and was haunting the society of one single individual, and as for craving for "the great realities of life," the fact is I was taking to my heart what has been called "life's greatest illusion." I am not all sure whether, when I was extolling the beauty of chimney pots and of the collection of buildings to be seen from my balcony, I was not also sighing for a suburban back garden, or for a lodge in some vast wilderness. The Westminster I was painting for my readers was the Westminster as she appeared to a mind which at the time was in a state of transition. And it is a well-known fact in human nature that the most positive utterances, the warmest expressed affections and enthusiasms, are often simply the outcome of a state of mind which is not sure of itself, and which seeks to obtain confidence by expressing in words that which it wants to believe, or thinks it ought to believe.

Perhaps the saddest fact about my mental change is the partial abandonment of Bohemia which it involves. A Bohemian has been defined as a man "who lives in order to do what he likes." How is it possible to do this in double harness? And again, "the only occupation of a wise man is that of doing the thing he likes to do." Very good; and such a rule of life may include the most unselfish as well as the most selfish men. For if it is a mere question of liking, some of us prefer to give pleasure to others rather than to obtain solitary enjoyment for ourselves. I am thinking far more of those little habits and every-day practices, which, to a man of my age, have become almost a part of my life. For instance, I find myself, when dining with Angelina, absent-mindedly gathering round me, before I begin, cruets, sauces, bread, wines and glasses, with all the attendant luxuries of a meal, forgetful for the moment, and sometimes for longer, of the needs of the partner in the show, and of the fact that I am not, as usual, dining alone. I am reminded of what I have done by the fact that Angelina's chin is in the air, and she is eloquently and expressively silent. I may mention that the pose of her chin is always a kind of barometer of the sort of weather I am likely to encounter. I have a way, too, I believe, of working down the bill of fare and saying "We will have so and so, and so and so," but as the chin ascends my assurance vanishes, and I am thankful to take what is put before me, even though it is grilled kidneys, which I abhor, and which is Angelina's favourite dish. Before I became attached to Angelina, I had read in books that love was blind. I wish it were even near-sighted with Angelina. She criticises my manner and appearance unmercifully every time I see her. When I do anything particularly Bohemian, or individualistic, she has a way of sighing and saying "she was never treated so by the others." "The others" are, so far as I can gather, previous male companions and admirers, who may, of course, have had separate interesting personalities of their own; but the effect of flaunting them *en bloc* in my face in this way, only conveys to my mind a picture of one

faultlessly dressed masher, who never wore thick boots, never kept his hat on in a room, never walked into a room before the lady, never helped himself first out of sheer absence of mind, never chaffed her about her own peculiarities, and never indulged in—the phrase is Angelina’s—“light fluent conversation.” Angelina has expressed her disapproval of a favourite tie of mine, which is of a rich brown colour and never seems to wear out. Perhaps that is one reason why it is a favourite. But Angelina says it *is* worn out, and moreover she informs me it is the colour which cooks always choose for their Sunday dress. She almost insinuates by this remark that at some period of my eventful life I must have kept company with a cook. Even now, so ingrained is habit, I find myself absent-mindedly putting on the brown tie sometimes, and it is only when I sit opposite the chin in the evening that I realise what I have done. I may mention that I have a second-hand cut-away coat for sale. For Angelina says it is utterly impossible for her to love a man who wears such a garment. I once visited her in a pair of boots which I had had specially made for me in Switzerland for climbing. I was trying, in accordance with my careful and economical habits, to wear them out in London. During the whole of my visit the chin pointed “Stormy,” but no reason for the change of weather appeared to my dreamy and dense mind. She explained it in a letter—a terrible letter. There is now a second-hand pair of boots for sale. In revenge for all this I have taken once or twice to criticising Angelina’s costume. I have expressed disapproval of certain dresses. On special occasions I have even asked her not to wear such and such a costume. Angelina makes a point of turning up in it, and if I remind her I was more compliant when she objected to my raiment, she exclaims indignantly, “The case is absolutely different; this dress suits me, and there is an end of it.” Of course I should be logically justified in turning up at our next meeting in a cut-away coat, but then I am aware that her soul rises above logical calculations, and besides there is that barometer to consider. In our early days of companionship Angelina announced herself as a Bohemian. And so far as allowing herself to do exactly as she likes constitutes a Bohemian, she is one, but she refuses this liberty to others. She is a perfect slave to fashion, etiquette, and to Mrs. Grundy, whom she idealises in the phrase “the fitness of things,” meaning by that phrase what other people think it right that you should do. But she goes her own way herself, and it is no use pointing out to her that she is unreasonable. She only tells you she was not so, apparently, to “the others.”

When I read out to her the sentence in the last “After Office Hours” ending with the statement that in my opinion “love at first sight is the most unenduring thing in the universe,” she said at once, “And you are the man to whom I had hardly been introduced when he proposed to me; and yet at that very time he was deceiving his readers by utterances like this. You are the most flippant and badly-dressed man I know. And your only idea of courtship seems to be to chaff me, a thing the others never did.” Angelina does not talk

like this, because she speaks a sort of broken English, being herself a foreigner and a barbarian. That is to say, she is a Celt and a Highlander, and she is eminently typical of both specialities. Even the way in which she carries her chin is evidently inherited from the proud clan from which she has sprung. In order to carry on a profitable conversation with her, you need a glossary in your hand, in order to make quite sure sometimes that she is not swearing, when she is only using words coined North of the Tweed. In one respect Angelina is peerless among women: she can not only chaff superbly, but she can enjoy being chaffed herself. Think of that, women of England, Scotland, and Ireland! If we are to be married there is likely to be some difficulty about the choice of a place of worship for the ceremony to be performed in. We are both agreed that the Church of England service would be impossible and intolerable. For of course Angelina declines to promise to obey me, and I don't want her to make promises I know she could not keep, and it would raise false hopes in her Scotch head if I declared solemnly that "with my worldly goods I thee endow." If we are wedded at the end of any month such a declaration would be both ridiculous and wicked. Looking back on my past I could recall many occasions when I could only have made such a statement on the first of the month, rather early in the day.

Still for all that there is no doubt I am abandoning Bohemia. It is perhaps not a country adapted for a permanent dwelling-place. It is a fair country, and I have been one of her most representative citizens. I have resisted many previous attacks on my citizenship. But I have at last been subdued. It is true Angelina did it in a snake-like fashion, by appearing in the guise of a Bohemian girl, but she has long since appeared in her true colours. And what is stranger still is that I now recognise that it was not the Bohemianism in her which attracted me, but her own individuality; otherwise, how do I explain away the circumstance that, in her company, I sail from Bohemia with a light heart? Angelina is nothing if not human, and she sometimes whispers to me, as we are sailing away to this new country of social respectabilities, settled habits and domestic comforts, that now and then, when things are dull or when she is cross, she will allow me to pay a visit to the dear old land. I may keep the brown tie and the thick boots for these occasions. Moreover, she says she will sometimes be a vagabond too. "But never again to live in Bohemia," she says decidedly. And I answer with all a lover's enthusiasm, and with a suitable command of the lover's common-places, that it would be like returning to Earth after having tasted Paradise. I said in my last article that "the Bohemian cannot be transplanted." It was the last falsehood but one in my confessions. For the fact is, the real Bohemian can adapt himself to any circumstances; and I have Angelina's word for it that, with a frock coat and gloves, people already mistake me for a respectable citizen.

E. B.

# St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

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## The Committee.

**I**T is the province of this magazine to deal with matters on which all Post Office men agree, and we do not, generally speaking, touch on points of internal organisation, or those which divide class from class. But although this is our rule, we cannot let pass an event of such importance as the appointment of Mr. Morley's Committee without remark. All who take any interest in postal affairs must long have desired that the questions of organisation so persistently agitated should be settled sooner or later, and those who wished to see harmony restored must have felt that the sooner this was done the better.

The various journals devoted to the interests of particular classes of postal servants have been very active, not to say acrimonious, of late. Some of the statements put forward by them will not, we fear, bear much investigation. We referred in our last number to a gem of this kind from the provinces which had no foundation whatever beyond the idle chatter of some disappointed men, and Mr. Morley, in his speech, referred to other deliberate misstatements of a peculiarly bad kind. We need hardly say that if on investigation it should appear that any considerable number of the allegations made are of this character—and we are far from saying that they are—the case put forward will lose much of its force in the eyes of the public, out of whose pockets the benefits expected must in the end come.

Long-continued agitation is a bad thing in itself and must react to the detriment of the moral fibre of all concerned in it. Truth is very apt to go to the wall and inexactness of statement usurps its place. How small is the connection between fact and philanthropy is shown by the result of the Opium Commission. To the average Englishman the report of that Commission will be regarded as settling the question, even although the result may prove as unwelcome as it was unexpected; and we venture to assert that it will be a very long time indeed before the Nonconformist Conscience attempts to use that particular subject to arouse the nation to one of its periodical fits of morality.

So it will be with this committee. Despite the indecent attacks which were made on it before its composition was even known, we feel sure that the character and standing of the members, together with the promise given that the sitting shall be public, will make it clear to all concerned that it is useless to decry it, and that if those who have grievances neglect this opportunity of stating their case in the expectation that they will get another, they will be making an irreparable mistake.

\* \* \*

The following constitute the Committee :—

The Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth, Lord Privy Seal and  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Chairman.

Sir A. Godley, K.C.B., Under Secretary for India.

Sir F. Mowatt, K.C.B., Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr. Spencer Walpole.

Mr. Llewellyn Smith, Board of Trade.

*Secretary*, Mr. Robert Bruce, Secretary's Office, G.P.O.

The objects of the Committee will best be gathered from the concluding portion of the Postmaster-General's speech in the House on the 18th May :—"He should be the last to deny that change and amelioration might be required in certain respects, but, having examined all the cases, he believed the men of the postal service, the telegraph as well as the Post Office, were better treated than people from the same class in private employment. But that opinion was not altogether shared by the public or by certain members of the House of Commons, and therefore the Government were prepared to appoint a strong committee, composed of men who would have special and practical knowledge and experience of administration, and who would, he hoped, be assisted by a member of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. He did not propose that it should be a Post Office committee. He quite agreed that the officials of the Post Office, having already made recommendations upon most of these questions, the servants of the department might feel that they would not get fair and fresh minds brought to bear upon the subject if the committee was composed of officers of the department. There must be upon a committee one official of the Post Office in order to assist the committee, but apart from that one appointment he proposed that the committee should be appointed from officials of the Civil Service not in connexion with the Post Office. The reference would be something in this form—to receive and consider any statement which may be made, either orally or in writing, by any class of persons in the service of the Post Office, other than the clerical staff in the chief offices, on the subject of their remuneration, prospects, or conditions of their employment, and to report thereupon. He would propose to lay their report and evidence on the table of the House, when it would become public property, and in that way, he believed, misapprehensions which now existed in the public mind on the subject would be largely, if not entirely, removed."

### National Expenditure.

**T**HOUGH Sir W. Harcourt's budget speech this year contained no very special reference to our Department, yet the weighty words which he uttered on the subject of the perennial increase of national expenditure express what every one who thinks on the subject cannot fail to feel. He appears to think that the time for retrenchment, which has already arrived for Australia, is not far off for us also. It seems clear that we cannot for ever go on increasing our expenses, or knocking profitable items off our income, but at present there is little sign that either process is coming to an end. Still, the time will certainly arrive sooner or later when a man will no longer be able to earn cheap popularity as a reformer by the easy process of telling people how to diminish income or increase expenses. Meanwhile our readers will do well to ponder over the Chancellor's words which we give below :—

“I have made some observations on the former heads of this statement. It is, however, idle to preach homilies on the subject of expenditure. No one will listen to them. There is a universal demand for more and more expenditure every year for every conceivable object, all of them excellent objects, but all of them pursued absolutely without any regard to their cost. Besides these demands for additional expenditure for every possible object, there are continual proposals to cut off first one and then another item of the public revenue. In private establishments you endeavour to regulate your outlay with some regard to your income, but in the public administration you have to make your taxation keep pace with your profusion. I am not going to preach a sermon on this subject, because political economy has become a lost art at the close of the century. It is a despised and unfashionable idea, and I do not know whether, under any circumstances, it will ever come into fashion again. Every one grumbles if money is not spent on his favourite fancy, but he grumbles still more when he is called upon to find the means of paying for it. But now, having made up our minds to spend this unexampled sum, it is time to consider what are the means we possess and what further means we require to defray the cost. . . . I am bound to say, with reference to the financial condition of the country, that, in my belief, in the growth of the expenditure of the country you have very nearly reached the limits of tolerable taxation. Of course, I am responsible and my colleagues are responsible, and gentlemen opposite will not deny their share of the responsibility. Therefore I make no party distinction in this matter, but I do ask the House to consider what are to be the results if we are to go on at the rate of adding £6,000,000 in every two years to the expenditure of the country? There is no other result than this—you must have an enormous increase of your taxation, and taxation is very high now. . . . So you may go on pressing these demands upon the House. They are very popular demands. On a Friday evening you can always command a majority

for them. You will have at one time a motion to increase wages in some of the great departments; and at another time a motion to exempt married women from taxation. All this represents hundreds of thousands of pounds. You cut off the sources of revenue every day; you increase expenditure every day, and the consequence is that you must meet the question of increased taxation. In my opinion that is a very serious question for the House and the country to face. We are, happily, able to meet an expenditure about double what it was half a century ago. It is a strong testimony to the soundness of our system of finance and of our system of commerce that we are able to do that with so little pressure, so little suffering, and so little oppressiveness of taxation; and when we look to other States who have adopted other methods we have no reason to complain of our position. But I feel, in the condition of the country and in the condition of finance, the seriousness of this daily increasing expenditure and these constant demands to reduce our sources of revenue; and, therefore, when I am called upon for excellent objects, against which I have not a word to say, to produce measures which would cost millions, I must raise my voice in warning. This is not a party question on one side or the other. The demand for increased expenditure is made by the House, and, so far as I can see, is supported by the country. But if we are able to face that expenditure to-day, shall we be able to face it to-morrow? Shall we be able to face it in the years to come unless we take a serious view of our position? It is my duty to warn the House on that subject. It may be, and probably will be, the last occasion on which, from a responsible position, I shall be able to use these words to the House of Commons or to the country; but I do so now with feelings of the deepest responsibility. You have reached a point where you cannot afford to go on increasing the expenditure of the country at the rate at which you have been going on in recent years; and if you do go on you will find yourself face to face with a burden of taxation which the country cannot and ought not to bear. These are considerations which I hope the House will bear in mind on every occasion when it is invited to give a vote which will lead to an increase in the expenditure or a decrease in the sources of revenue."

### Coast Communications.

THE undermentioned works have been carried out in connection with the Coast Communication Scheme in addition to those of which notice has been given in previous issues of this Magazine.

Telephonic intercommunication in the neighbourhood of Liverpool Bay as follows:—Between Formby Lifeboat Station, Formby Post Office, Crosby Lighthouse, Blundellsands Coast Guard Station, Landing Stage Liverpool and Branch Office at Stage, Liverpool Head Post Office, New Brighton Post Office, and the North End of the Wallasey Ferries Landing Stage.

Telephonic communication between Cromer and Mundesley Coast Guard Stations and Mundesley Post Office, with a call-bell at the latter office.

Telephonic communication between Covehithe and Kessingland Coast Guard Stations and Kessingland Post Office, with call-bells at Lowestoft, Pakefield, Kessingland, and Southwold Post Offices.

Telephonic communication between Newborough Post Office and the Lighthouse at Llanddwyn.

Call-bells have been fixed at Stromness, Longhope, and Kirkwall Post Offices, thus providing means of communication between Brough Ness (St. Margaret's Hope) and Cantick (Longhope).

Fair Isle can now call Kirkwall Post Office at night.

Arrangements have been made by which night communication can be had between Scrabster and the Coast Guard Station at Thurso.

The Scurdy Ness—Usan Coast Guard Station wire has now been looped into the Lifeboat Coxswain's house at Ferryden.

Call-bells have been fixed at Portmahomack, Tain, Golspie, and Dornoch Post Offices.

Telephonic intercommunication between the Coast Guard Stations at Dirk Cove, Mill Cove, and Dunny Cove, Galley Head Lighthouse, and Clonakilty Post Office.

Castlegregory has now been placed in telegraphic communication with Tralee.

The following works have been sanctioned and will be carried out during the current financial year:—

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Beadnell, Newton, and Craster.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Craster, Boulmer, Alnmouth, and Amble.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Salthouse, Weybourne, Sherringham, and Cromer.

Provision of call bell in look-out house at Palling on the Happisburgh-Winterton Coastguard Station circuit.

Telephonic communication between South Gorleston Coastguard Station, Corton Coastguard Station, Lowestoft Post Office, and Lowestoft Coastguard Station, with a call bell at Lowestoft Post Office.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Station and Watchman's House at the East Pier Head, Ramsgate.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Winchelsea, Dog's Hill, Pett, and Haddocks.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Haddocks and Fairlight, Ore Post Office, and the Coastguard Stations at Ecclesbourne and Hastings.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Southbourne, Bournemouth, Sandbanks, and Poole Post Office, with call bells at the Poole Post Office on the proposed circuit, and the St. Alban's Head circuit.



Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Kimmeridge, Warbarrow, Lulworth, and Whitenose, and between Whitenose, Osmington, Preston, and Weymouth.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Gurnard's Head and St. Ives, Hayle Post Office, and the Coastguard Stations at Gwithian and Portreath.

Telephonic communication between the Coastguard Stations at Portreath, Porthtowan, St. Agnes, and Perranporth, and Perranporth, New Quay, and Mawgan Porth.

Switch arrangement at Ferryside to enable Rhossili Coastguard Station to communicate with Burry Port Coastguard Station.

Extension of the Llanddwyn—Newborough telephone circuit to the house of the "Flagman" of the Lifeboat Crew at Maes-y-ceirchdir.

Telephonic communication between the Montrose Post Office and the Lifeboat House.

Provision of Telephone and call bell at Passage East Post Office on the Dunmore—Fethard coast wire.

Extension of the Helvick Head—Dungarvan Post Office (Admiralty) wire to Ballinacourty Coastguard Station, and fixing a call bell at Dungarvan Post Office.

Telephonic communication between the Watch Tower and Watch Room at Ardglass Coastguard Station.

### The Trunk Telephone Lines.

WEDNESDAY, the 12th June, saw the inauguration of the trunk telephone lines of the Post Office from London to the chief cities of the United Kingdom. For the acquisition of the existing trunk lines of the companies and the provision of the backbone system connecting England, Scotland, and Ireland together, Parliament provided £1,000,000 by the Telegraph Act of 1892. The mileage of wire to be erected is 10,375, and that already completed amounts to 7,595. The actual backbone line of 2,719 miles extends from London via Nottingham and Leeds to Carlisle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, and Dublin. It is built with the heaviest copper wire ever erected, each wire weighing 800 lbs. per mile. The underground portion is reduced to the shortest possible length, since underground wires seriously impair telephone speaking. The wires to Ireland extend through Leeds and Carlisle to Portpatrick, thence by cable across the North Channel to Donaghadee, and so to Belfast and Dublin, the distance by this route from London to Dublin being 467 miles. All the lines are metallic. The transmitters used are the Deckert, an Austrian improvement on Hunning's granular microphones, and the receivers are simple double-pole bells. The circuits revolve about each other and have been designed on the so-called K.R. law which has been developed by the Post Office itself. The Western lines from Plymouth to Bristol, South Wales and the North have already been opened for public use and the lines from London are ready. The charges for a conversation



To celebrate the opening of these lines a large number of gentlemen were present at St. Martin's-le-Grand, including the Lord Mayor, Mr. A. Morley, M.P. (Postmaster-General), Lord Kelvin, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir C. Cameron, M.P., Mr. Staats Forbes, Mr. Walpole, Mr. A. Turnor, Mr. W. H. Preece, Sir R. Hunter, Mr. Lamb, and Mr. Atdron. At the Edinburgh end were the Lord Provost, Lord Kingsburgh (Lord Justice Clerk of the Court of Session), Sir T. Clark, of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mitford, and many others. At Glasgow were the Lord Provost, The Dean of Guild, and several of the Bailies, Sir John Burns, and others. At Dublin there were present the Lord Mayor, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Stock Exchange, and Mr. Creswell. At Belfast there were the Lord Mayor, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Chairmen of the Harbour and Water Commissioners and the Linen Association, and the newly appointed Postmaster and Surveyor, Mr. Delany. The speaking was kept up for some time between London and these cities. The Postmaster-General opened the proceedings by speaking to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, congratulating him on the completion of telephonic communication between England and Scotland. Messages also passed between the Lord Mayor and the Postmaster-General and the Mayor and Town Clerk of Nottingham, of which town the Lord Mayor is a native and for which Mr. Morley is the sitting member. In all cases the messages, even to a whisper, were quite distinct. "Auld Lang Syne" sung in Edinburgh and coming over the lines with great distinctness caused considerable merriment. The Irishmen of Belfast were also asked to sing, but preferred to whistle, every sound of which could be clearly caught. It may be mentioned that experiments have been made with a line extending 1,270 miles, from Plymouth to Dublin, by a circuitous and temporary route, and the telephonic results have been proved to be absolutely satisfactory. This is the longest distance yet attempted, if we leave out the case of India, where the extreme dryness of the atmosphere gives facility for telephonic communication.

The accompanying plan shows the lines already erected or about to be erected by the Department. In addition to these, however, the still larger system at present belonging to the National Telephone Company will, under the agreement, become the property of the Department on and from the 1st July.

### Electric Communication with Lighthouses.

THE third report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire what lighthouses and light-vessels it is desirable to connect with the telegraphic system of the United Kingdom by electric communication is signed by Lord Mount-Edgcumbe (chairman), the Hon. H. L. Mulholland, M.P., Sir E. Birkbeck, Admiral Sir F. L. M'Clintock, Admiral Sir G. S. Nares, Mr. J. C. Lamb, Mr. W. H. Preece, Mr. J. A. Kempe, and Mr. Munro Ferguson, M.P. They

state that effect has now been given to all the recommendations made in the two reports already issued, except in the case of the Scarweather lightship and Caldys and Fastnet lighthouses, and they assume that the connexion of those stations will shortly be taken in hand. Though they still consider that the "Sunk" system is the best system of continuous connexion which has yet been brought to their notice, they think it desirable that a trial should be given to a system of communication by induction, in order that they may be able to judge, before issuing their final report, whether such a system can be used under the conditions (of deep water and over a rough bottom) which render the establishment of electric communication with light-vessels by means of the "Sunk" system a matter of very great difficulty. The Commissioners are satisfied that the telephonic connexions established with lighthouses and light-vessels have increased in an important degree the effectiveness of the life-saving machinery on our coasts. Extracts from the logs of the Kentish Knock and Goodwin lightships and the Gunfleet lighthouse, given in an appendix, show very forcibly the advantages of electric communication as compared with ordinary signals. The Commissioners recommend that telephone communication be established with the Formby lightship, the Maplin lighthouse, the Smalls lighthouse, and the Little Ross and Bidston lighthouses, the total cost of which they estimate at £8,585. They also recommend that storm-warning signals should be displayed at 25 lighthouses at an estimated cost of £25 a year. In conclusion, the Commissioners state that they propose to proceed this summer to Denmark, where electric communication with lighthouses has already been some years in operation, to inquire into the working of the system there. Permission has already been granted by the Danish Government.

### **An Unfortunate Company.**

#### **THE STAMP DISTRIBUTION (PARENT) COMPANY, LIMITED.**

FROM the observations of the Official Receiver (Mr. G. S. Barnes), issued under a winding-up order made in this case, it appears that the company was registered on May 26, 1892, and was formed to acquire the whole of the rights and interests of the Stamp Distribution Syndicate (Limited), the vendors, in certain patents and licences granted for the manufacture and sole use of machines constructed for the automatic delivery of postage stamps. According to the prospectus the great advantage of the scheme to the public was that for the sum of one penny a memorandum book and envelope and a penny stamp were to be obtained at all hours of the day and night, and it was by reason of the revenue to be derived from the advertisements which were to appear in the memorandum books that the company was to be enabled to supply the three articles for one penny, and realize a considerable profit. The Official

Receiver states that the principal object of formation, however, appears to have been the sale of licences to subsidiary companies for the use of the company's patents in different parts of the country. As a result of the issue of the prospectus applications were received for 14,895 shares, and these were allotted on August 11, 1892. A further allotment of 1,428 shares took place on October 6 following, and seven additional shares were subscribed for by the signatories to the memorandum of association. In the prospectus the following paragraph appeared:—"The company will commence operations with an issue of 5,000,000 memorandum books, the spaces in which have been readily let for the advertisements of manufacturers, insurance companies, and others, and after providing envelopes and inserting 1d. stamp in each book, and deducting office expenses, it is estimated a net profit will be left to this company of 17s. 6d. per 1,000 books." The Official Receiver, after entering into other details, states that the company's registered offices were originally at 10, Old Jewry Chambers, City, but were changed in October, 1892, to 143a, Holborn. The trading of the company was carried on at a loss throughout. Up to August 31 last, the date of the second balance sheet, the loss amounted to £12,011. Under the provisions of a debenture for £1,000, issued in January, 1894, Mr. Frederick Whinney has been appointed receiver, and has been carrying on the business of the company. The liabilities are returned in the accounts at £1,728, of which £527 are unsecured, and the company's property, for which £104,062 is stated to have been paid in cash and shares, is now estimated to realize £1,001. As regards contributories, the total deficiency is £116,433.—*Times*, 11th May.

### An Old Poem.

WE take the following from *Stanley Gibbon's Monthly Journal* which again appears to have reprinted it from some other source, as it is attributed to Augustus de Morgan and evidently dates from 1840 or thereabouts. It is evidently modelled on a well-known poem in the *Antijacobin*:—

"There first for thee my passion grew  
Sweet, sweet Matilda Pottingen!  
She was the daughter of my tu-  
tor, law professor at the U-  
niversity of Gottingen."

### THE UNIVERSAL PENNY POSTAGE.

"From universal suffrage some  
Say every blessing's sure to come,  
As clear as one and one make two;  
But others say it's all a hum,  
And there's no blessing like the U-  
niversal Penny Postage.

"Of all the penn'worths Nature gave—

A penny show, a penny shave  
(There's blacking for a penny too,)

A penny biscuit—all must waive

Their claims in favour of the U-

niversal Penny Postage.

"For all things now there's some new way—

To write, to seal, to fold, to pay ;

And you must talk in idioms new,

And, when you mean *Post-paid*, must say,

'*Pre-paid*' by order of the U-

niversal Penny Postage.

"If aught's *not* new the wonder's great,

The tables are so turned of late,

E'en 'useful tables,' thought so true :

Your half-ounce makes one *pennyweight*,

According to the school of U-

niversal Penny Postage.

"Who'd think our great authorities

Would do a thing so (penny) wise ?

(Pound-foolish things we know they do !)

How now in history they'll rise !—

'The government that gave the U-

niversal Penny Postage.'

"O ROWLAND HILL, immortal man,

How can we pay you for your plan !

To *you* our thanks, our pence, are due :

It was the Emp'r of Japan

As much as *they* that gave the U-

niversal Penny Postage.

"Send up a column to the sky,

Five thousand office inkstands high ;

Take for a basement fair to view,

As many reams of 'wove demy' ;

Write 'To the author of the U-

niversal Penny Postage.' "

A. DE M.

### The Expansion of Telegrams.

A LEADING daily newspaper recently published, on the authority of the General News Company, a long telegraphic account of the sad mountaineering misadventure which has aroused such universal sympathy throughout the country. Shortly afterwards an article appeared in the *Mountain Chronicle*, asserting that the original telegram to the Company from their local correspondent, who, it appears, did not himself visit the scene of the accident, but obtained his information second-hand, consisted of 12 words only, but was expanded to 112 in the offices of the Company. The *Chronicle* published the original and the expansion side by side, as follows :—

## THE ORIGINAL.

WELSH HARP (*via* Hendon),  
6th February.

Jack fell down and cracked  
his crown and Jill came tumbling  
after.\*

(12 words expanded to 112.)

## THE EXPANSION.

TOP OF PRIMROSE HILL (*via*  
Welsh Harp), February 5.

The tempestuous weather which prevailed on Friday and Saturday had rendered the footing unusually hazardous. While at a considerable elevation the water-bearers slipped in some unaccountable manner and were precipitated down the hill side. All the participants in the unfortunate affair sustained more or less serious injuries. The youth, after being conveyed to the hospital, and subjected to a medical examination, was pronounced to be suffering from a contusion of the parietal bone, while his female companion, whose fall took place subsequently to his own, was much shaken; but we are glad to learn from the latest bulletin that in neither case is there any cause for anxiety as to their ultimate recovery.

Thus, one hundred words of the telegram were obviously manufactured in London. The General News Company, being invited to furnish their observations, wrote to the Editor of the paper as follows:—

"SIR,—The statement contained in the *Mountain Chronicle* is a tissue of fabrications.

"The so-called original message as quoted by the *Mountain Chronicle* was never received by us.

"Besides, I maintain that, even if it had been, it could not have been rendered into readable English with the use of fewer words than those employed by our Editors.

"Yours truly,

"MORE ORLESS, *Manager*."

\* \* \*

The ordinary mode of telegraphy is by *conduction*. Mr. Preece has found out a second method, *induction*. It would almost seem that there is yet a third method, viz., *deduction*.

\* Readers of *Rejected Addresses* will recollect that therein Dr. Busby gives his version of this sad occurrence—a version which in some important respects differs from the original.—EDITOR.

## The Great Jounce Case.

**I**N order that our readers may see the awful possible consequences of a slight and apparently harmless and innocent little telegraphic error, we lay before them this outline of the Great Jounce Case.

There is a ship called the "Dumbartonshire," which belongs to Messrs. T. Law & Co., shipowners, of Glasgow. On the 7th November, 1892, she was lying at Newcastle, in New South Wales, and the owners' intention was that she should proceed thence to Rangoon (in Burmah) and there take on board a cargo of rice for South America. This intention they communicated to the captain of the "Dumbartonshire," whose name was Murphy. But she could not proceed empty to Rangoon; she must either have ballast on board, or a cargo of some kind. Coals happened to be the most profitable cargo she could take, and the owners accordingly decided that 1,000 tons of coal should be shipped at this Australian Newcastle, for Rangoon.

The next step was to order the coal. For this purpose on the 8th November they approached Mr. Jackson, the Glasgow agent of Messrs. J. & A. Brown (coal merchants, of London, and also of Newcastle in New South Wales), and gave him an order for 1,000 tons of Dukinfield coal, price £490 10s. This order he communicated to his principals in London, who at once telegraphed to their Newcastle agent to put the coal on board. Next day the contract for the coal was signed, and on the same day Messrs. Brown cabled to their Newcastle agent the following code words:—"Dumbartonshire falcas journee." According to their code, the word "journee" meant "After this vessel is loaded the owners or charterers order it to proceed to Rangoon." It was almost as expressive, in fact, as Lord Burleigh's celebrated nod. Now comes in the unfortunate telegraphic error which entailed such disastrous consequences. The word "journee" was telegraphed as "jounce"; and "jounce" (a good English word, of which everybody knows the meaning) also happened to be a code word, conveying the following signification:—"Vessel to proceed to Callao." Callao and Rangoon are practically at opposite ends of the world.

The coal having been put on board, the agents of the coal merchants at Newcastle made out a bill of lading and gave it to the captain. The captain noticed that the port of destination given in the bill of lading was different from that given in his communication from the owners. He called attention to this, and the agent of the coal merchants then handed him the following letter:—

"18th November, 1892.

"Capt. Murphy, ship 'Dumbartonshire.'

"Present.

"Dear Sir,—For your satisfaction we beg to confirm our verbal instructions respecting draft against your cargo and destination. They come from your owners and were conveyed to us in a cablegram which arrived on 13th instant from our London house. In it



we were instructed to limit the quantity supplied to your ship to 1,000 tons, and after loading to despatch you for Callao, taking your draft for cost on your owners, Messrs. T. Law & Co. This letter will be sufficient guarantee for your proceeding on your voyage, as we understand your only difficulty lies in absence of any direct communication on the point from Messrs. Law & Co. We wish you a pleasant voyage, and remain,

“Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

JAMES and ALEXR. BROWN.”

With this letter in his pocket Captain Murphy sailed away on his pleasant voyage to Callao, in Peru.

The consequent loss of profit to Messrs. Law, the owners of the ship, amounted to the sum of £816 2s. 4d. Deducting from this the price of the coal (for which they had not paid) they requested Messrs. Brown to pay them the balance of their loss, viz., the sum of £325 12s. 4d.

Messrs. Brown then brought an action to recover the price of the coal, and Messrs. Law at the same time counter-claimed damages against Messrs. Brown, on the ground that they “had wrongfully and negligently and without any authority or request from the defendants (Messrs. Law), cabled from their house in London to their house in Newcastle, in the colony of New South Wales, instructions as to the destination of the defendant’s ship “Dumbartonshire,” and wrongfully and without authority, and contrary to the fact, informed the master of that vessel that they had his owner’s instructions to order him to proceed to Callao, whereby the master proceeded with the vessel to Callao instead of to Rangoon.”

The case was heard at the Guildhall in October last, before Mr. Justice Bruce and a special jury.

The Judge put the following questions to the jury:—1. Did the plaintiffs give to the master of the ship a guarantee that they had received orders that the ship should proceed to Callao? 2. Did they, by such guarantee, prevail on the master to go to Callao instead of Rangoon? 3. Did the master, in acting on the guarantee without further communicating with the owners, act reasonably?

The three questions were answered in the affirmative.

The cause was thereupon adjourned for further consideration, and came on for argument on November 8, 1894, when judgment was reserved. On November 12, 1894, the learned Judge gave judgment for Messrs. Brown, holding that the letter of November 18, 1892, was, at most, a warranty given to *the master personally* and was not given to the owner or to the master as agent of the owner, and that the owner could not sue upon such warranty. Judgment was accordingly entered for Messrs. Brown as regards both claim and counterclaim. In other words, the Judge decided that Messrs. Law must pay for the coal they ordered, and that Messrs. Brown were not responsible for sending the “Dumbartonshire” to Callao.

From this decision Messrs. Law appealed to the Court of Appeal. The case was argued before the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices

Lopes and Rigby, who reversed the decision as regards the counter-claim, with costs. In other words, Messrs. Brown *were* responsible for sending the "Dumbartonshire" to Callao.

Finally, Messrs. Brown appealed to the House of Lords.

The Lord Chancellor, in giving judgment, on the 7th May last, said that the circumstances of the case were very peculiar. The captain of the vessel was unwilling to take upon himself the responsibility of going to Callao, but was ready to go there if the appellants took upon themselves the responsibility. Then the letter of November 18 was written, the terms of which were most unequivocal. In that letter the appellants said that they were acting for the owners by reason of instructions from them, and that the letter would be a sufficient guarantee for him to proceed to Callao. It had been contended on behalf of the appellants that this letter was only given to satisfy the captain in case his owners should blame him in the matter. He did not think that that was a fair interpretation of the document. The captain would naturally believe that the letter was given him as master of the vessel by the appellants acting on behalf of the owner. The court below were justified in coming to the conclusion that the appellants had taken full responsibility upon themselves, and therefore the appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The other noble and learned Lords having concurred,

The appeal was dismissed with costs.

### Our New Home.

THE General Post Office North is at last being occupied, and the occupation will be completed by the time this magazine is in the hands of our subscribers. At present we are going through the process of disillusionment. We are finding out how narrow the rooms are, and we are beginning to doubt whether the system of bare floors made of wood blocks and unvarnished is conducive either to comfort or cleanness. If a bottle of ink gets upset in a conspicuous place, the only thing to do is to send for a carpenter and get him to plane out the stain, a process which, if often repeated, would be likely to cause undulations of career abhorrent to the straightforwardness which is so much prized by all employed in the public service. The undulatory floor at St. Mark's is considered by the Venetians to be one of its chief beauties; but we, practical men, prefer the path of rectitude, and are inclined to agree with the poet's criticism on Dudu:—

"And after all 't would puzzle to say where

'T would not have spoiled some separate charm to pare."

Again, the courtyard, if long, is very narrow, and unfortunately too, the long way of the yard runs east and west. Had it run north and south more light might have come down to those who have the misfortune to inhabit the inward-looking rooms on the lower floors. As things are, the winter sun will probably not reach the pavement at all, and we expect before long to see most of the inner windows garnished with aids to reflection.

People are beginning to ask whether the heads in the keystones of the entrance archways mean any persons in particular or are merely the outcome of the collective imagination of the Board of Works. We never remember to have seen attempts at portraiture of this kind before, and our impression is that it is the first time such a thing was ever attempted. We sincerely hope it will be the last. It is true that heads (or rather *masks*) have often been carved in similar positions, and any one who walks down the Thames Embankment may see at the Temple pier a very good specimen of a bearded head in just such a place. But surely never before has an attempt been made at *portraiture* in a position of this kind. One cannot tell a man simply by his features; to recognise him, one must see the outline of the head as well. Anyone who wishes to know how this result can be achieved in architecture has only to go to Hampton Court and look at the heads of the Cæsars on the sides of the gateways.

So much by way of grumbling. Perhaps by and bye we may look at the other side of the shield.

### Truth in the Present Day.

Henry, sore shattered by this trying summer,  
Pray keep a level head like mine, nor deign  
To play the mad Mephistophelian mummer  
Should fickle fortune favour us again.

—*Hawarden Horace.*

WE were sorry to see in a recent number of *Truth* some garbled extracts from the article in our last number on the meeting of surveyors at Bushey. We were sorry to see it because if one of our subscribers had not acted dishonourably the magazine could hardly have come into the hands of the professional purveyor of veracity. In old times truth dwelt at the bottom of a well: now she is sold for sixpence at a bookstall. No doubt from time to time a great many crying evils are exposed in this paper to the benefit of the community—and the owners of the paper. But there are not always scandals enough to fill its weekly pages with the requisite number of lines of caustic comment. Still something *must* be written, someone *must* be denounced: some wretch *must* squirm that editors may dine. Therefore the editor looks round in despair for a scapegoat who can be relied on to take it meekly. Happy thought! The Post Office! Get a few paragraphs set up in case there is nothing more to be said about the Jubilee Hospital, or the Bad Samaritan!

The results appear from time to time in the shape of paragraphs denouncing Post Office surveyors, and suggesting that their work (and their salaries) should be divided among postmasters. Such a suggestion is of course much better made in the form of an occasional paragraph than in any other way, for the simple reason that the very thinnest of argument easily passes muster. In a

connected article it would have to be shown that the employment of a small body of trustworthy men to oversee, to revise, to harmonize the work of thousands of postmasters and sub-postmasters, is intrinsically absurd: it would further be advisable to prove that large firms (such as Messrs. W. H. Smith) who employ agents scattered about the country never dreamt of anything so ridiculous, or, at any rate, that having given the practice a fair trial, they had abandoned it as unnecessary: it would clinch the argument if it could be proved that other Government offices more modern in their notions than our effete Department had given up the practice: that the Education Department found it advantageous to obtain reports of the progress of a school only from the head-master thereof: that the Customs never dreamed of sending anyone to inspect their collectors' accounts: that the captain of H.M.S. "Mantlepiece" was allowed to cocker his sailors to his heart's content without any attempt at interference from the Admiralty: and that if a recruiting-sergeant at John o' Groats assaulted a civilian and broke his umbrella there is nothing to be done but to appeal to the Duke of Cambridge in person for a new one.

For our part we recollect but one parallel to the proposal, and that was the meeting which, according to Hesiod, the mice once held to demand the abolition of cats.\* On second thoughts, perhaps it was not Hesiod that started the rumour, but some sixpenny sensation-mongering sheet of classical date. But the point is not of much importance. The great thing in reading what the newspapers have to say about our Department is to take a large pinch of salt therewith, and to remember that as Johnson might have said:—

A paper's laws a paper's patrons give;  
For those that live to tease must tease to live.

### The Postmaster and the Archbishop.

THE evergreen A. K. H. B., in his latest work, "St. Andrew's and Elsewhere," has the following story of the late Archbishop Tait:—

"On one of his latest visits to a certain country house in a Scottish county, he went alone to the post office to send a telegram to his brother. He wrote it out: 'The Archbishop of Canterbury to Sheriff Tait,' and handed it in. The sceptical old postmaster read it aloud in contemptuous tones: '*The Archbishop of Canterbury*'; and added, 'Wha may ye be that taks this cognomen?' The Archbishop, taken aback, remained silent for a moment. The morning was cold, and he had a woollen comforter wrapped round his neck; but on second view the postmaster thought he looked more

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\* " 'Not like cats!' cried the mouse in a shrill passionate voice, 'would you like cats if you were me?' 'Well, perhaps not,' said Alice in a soothing tone, 'don't be angry about it.' "—*Alice in Wonderland*.

respectable than on a first, and added, 'Maybe ye're the gentleman himsel'.' Tait replied modestly, 'For want of a better, I am.' On which the good old Scot hastened to apologise for his first suspicion of imposture; adding, 'I might have seen you were rather consequential about the legs.' Then he added words of cheer, which Tait said truly were vitally Scotch: 'I have a son in London, a lad in a shop; and he gaed to hear ye preach one day, and was verra weel satisfied.'"

### The Autocrat Again.

**A**PPARENTLY Dr. Holmes' correspondence with post office men in England was more extensive than we had thought, for we have now received a copy of another interesting letter from him, which, like the one printed in our January number, is on the subject of trees, a subject in which, as lovers of the autocrat will recollect, he took great interest, and on which, as he tells us in the last chapter of his eponymous work he received many communications from all parts of the world.

Now, at Aldenham, Herts, as every post office man who rides a bicycle should know, there is in the churchyard a very remarkable tree. An altar-tomb, bearing the date 1697 and surrounded by wrought iron railings, has been entirely shattered by a noble sycamore tree which has grown up in it and now rears its noble head so as to dominate the scene. In its growth the tree came into contact with the rails, which in course of years have become incorporated, like Fradubio, in its "rough rind." Mr. H. Norris sent the genial doctor a photograph of the tree and in due time received the following reply:—

"296, Beacon Street, Boston,  
Dec. 17th, 1892.

"MY DEAR SIR,

I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for your interesting letter about the iron grown over in the trunk of the sycamore tree, and the very fine photograph of the beautiful tree, which came with it in perfect order.

Very truly yours,

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

"Do not think I forget or fail to appreciate your pleasant words about my writings. I get many kind messages from unknown friends in England as well as from countrymen of my own and they are very welcome and very helpful to me."

### In the Canary Isles.

**B**ENT on having a thorough change (writes a colleague) I went for my leave this year to Las Palmas, in the Canary Islands, and told my friends to address my letters to the Poste Restante. When I got there I proceeded to the post office (il correo) and asked in Latin (for I knew no Spanish) that my letters might be re-directed

to my hotel, two miles away. Observe the value of a classical education. Alas! I found it was impossible. Why? Because in this town of 20,000 inhabitants there is no postal delivery. No, I must call for my letters. The staff, consisting apparently of two persons, exclusive, that is, of the staff who deal with the national lotteries (loterías), attend nominally from eleven to four. Really, they turn up about half past eleven, and there is an uncertain interval of about two hours in the middle of the day for siesta. Even when the staff is on the spot there is somnolence in the air. You hang about by the pigeonhole in the hall, and you observe that somebody (whose experience has been as sad as your own) has written up in pencil here and there, on the whitewashed walls, the words "A dormir" (gone to sleep). At last someone, cigarette in mouth, saunters apologetically up to the pigeon-hole. You seize the opportunity. "Tiene usted algunas cartas por —?" ("Has your mercy any letters for —?") A profound and courtly shrug of the shoulders is the first answer you get. Further persistence results in a violent shaking of the head, accompanied by a waving of the official's forefinger under his own nose. This means emphatically "No!" Meanwhile you are absolutely certain there must be letters. At this moment, you spy in the street your English friend who speaks Spanish. You hail him in. Hats are taken off with a profusion of courtesy. A few rapid liquid words are interchanged, and away you go with your hard-won budget from home.

### How the "Central News" saved the life of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. (?) \*

AS is well known, the Prince was for a long period in a very critical condition, he was hanging, as it were, between life and death, and the anxiety in the country was of the deepest and most intense character; news from the sick chamber was the one thing for which everyone looked and waited. When His Royal Highness's condition was at its worst, Sir Arthur Helps called at the *Central News* one Saturday afternoon. On being shown into Mr. Saunders' room, he explained that Convocation had assembled that afternoon, and had agreed upon a prayer for the recovery of the Prince of Wales. But now they were met with a difficulty; how were they to get it to the clergy throughout the country in time for use on the morrow. To Mr. Saunders there was no difficulty in the matter whatever, and he at once suggested to his visitor that the prayer should be telegraphed. To this Sir Arthur exclaimed, "What, telegraph the prayer!" from which Mr. Saunders thought Sir Arthur was scandalized at the profanity of the suggestion. It was not that, however, for Sir Arthur went on to explain that "You must remember we have a Liberal Government in office, and they

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\* Reprinted by permission from the *Reporter's Journal*. We thank Mr. C. R. Thomas for transcribing it for us. The events referred to happened in 1872.

would never consent to the expense of telegraphing the prayer!" Mr. Saunders pointed out that he did not think the expense of telegraphing the prayer would make a great deficit in the next budget. He also suggested that perhaps Mr. Scudamore (Assistant Secretary, G.P.O.) would arrange to charge for the transmission of the sacred petition at press rates. Sir Arthur went to Mr. Scudamore, and the *Central News* telegraphed the prayer to all the clergy in the British Isles; and from that Sunday the Prince of Wales began to improve; indeed, on or about the following Wednesday, the newsboys in London were exclaiming in their loudest tones, and to the great joy of all Her Majesty's subjects, "The Prince of Wales is drinking bitter beer!" Soon after this His Royal Highness was convalescent, and then came the historical thanksgiving service in St. Paul's for the recovery of the Prince.

On the day previous to this great State ceremony, Mr. Saunders saw Mr. Scudamore, and explained to him that the crowd in the streets would be so enormous that it would be impossible for the messengers to pass quickly, and supply the intelligence which was looked for so eagerly throughout the length and breadth of the land. Mr. Scudamore at once saw the truth of this, and asked Mr. Saunders what he would suggest. Mr. Saunders immediately replied that his plan was to run a wire into the cathedral, and by this means an account of the proceedings could be telegraphed direct to all the newspapers, clubs, and news rooms throughout the country. To this Mr. Scudamore laughingly replied, "get the permission of the dean, and I will put in the wire." Mr. Saunders waited for nothing further, but went straight off to the dean to get his written permission. The dean entered into the spirit of the thing, and Mr. Saunders returned, armed with the required permission. Mr. Scudamore was as good as his word, and proceeded to give directions for the work to be carried out. In the evening, however, the dean sent a note to Mr. Saunders stating that he had overlooked the fact that the cathedral was under the charge of the Lord Chamberlain, and that it would be necessary to get his permission before reporters and telegraphists could be admitted to the sacred edifice. Here was a dilemma!

Time pressed, and so Mr. Saunders had no alternative but to run off to the Lord Chamberlain's office. No sooner were the facts explained to the Lord Chamberlain than he looked as black as thunder, and said "The dean had no right to give permission, as the cathedral is under my charge,"—with great emphasis on the *my*. After some altercation the Lord Chamberlain said emphatically, "I shall not give permission for the wires to be used." Mr. Saunders replied, "Then I must now return to the *Central News*, and telegraph to all our friends throughout the country that, in consequence of the Lord Chamberlain refusing permission, the arrangements made for the morrow must be cancelled." This was evidently unexpected, and he looked serious, and after some beating about the bush he said, "You shall hear from me by three o'clock in the

morning." Before three o'clock the *Central News* had received tickets of admission for the reporters and telegraphists. These took possession of one of the galleries, and a report of the sermon was telegraphed as it went on, and an account of the other proceedings was transmitted in a similarly expeditious manner. This turned out to be one of the most successful bits of journalistic engineering ever attempted. Both the London and Provincial papers were selling in the streets with a capital report of the thanksgiving sermon, and a realistic account of the proceedings and crowd, before the people had cleared away from St. Paul's Churchyard.

### Some More Philatelic Animals.

SOME months ago (writes Mr. E. A. Martin), an anecdote headed "A Philatelic Sparrow" appeared in one of your issues. A parallel instance has come to my knowledge. Some time ago a paid Money Order was missing, and although every effort was made to recover it, it could nowhere be found. Shortly afterwards, stamps began to be missing in an unaccountable manner, their value of course being made good by the Sub-Postmistress repeatedly. One day, when an "extra special" search was being made, the long lost Money Order was discovered, gnawed up into small pieces, around a large rat-hole, whilst partly in and partly out of the hole were strips of half-penny stamps amounting altogether to about six shillings' worth. Considering that the Sub-Office in question was a grocer's and oilman's, the taste which the rats exhibited in choosing Post Office material, certainly entitle them to be called "Philatelic Rats."

### Post Office Clerks and Parish Councils.

WE are glad to find that Post Office men are taking full advantage of the liberty accorded to them, under Mr. Fowler's Act, of serving their country by sharing in the administration of its local affairs. Mr. John Broadbent, of the Huddersfield Post Office, may be mentioned as a typical instance. He is the youngest member of the Kirkheaton Urban District Council and has recently been elected to its Chairmanship. In virtue of his position of Chairman, Mr. Broadbent acts as Justice of the Peace for the Huddersfield District of the West Riding of Yorkshire: he has duly qualified, and took his seat on the Bench for the first time on the 11th June.

Mr. Broadbent's father and grandfather both filled the position of Chairman of the Local Board, and it is gratifying to find the Kirkheaton ratepayers have chosen the representative of the third generation to fill the highest position in their Council. Our readers will join us in heartily congratulating Mr. John Broadbent upon his local honours.



### Post Office Musical Society.

THE fifth season of this Society ended literally with a flourish of trumpets. The occasion was a performance of Sir Arthur Sullivan's dramatic cantata, "The Golden Legend," which was undertaken by Mr. Sydney Beckley in the hope of clearing off the deficit in the Society's accounts. The performance took place at Queen's Hall on 24th April. The Hall was crammed to overflowing—indeed some two or three hundred persons could not gain admittance. Some confusion naturally ensued in front of the Hall, and it was explained to those ticket-holders who were unsuccessful in obtaining seats, that tickets in excess of the accommodation of the Hall had been issued. It cannot be too widely known, however, that this was not the case—the real reason was the opening of the doors before the advertised time, and before the inside stewards had been placed in position. This enabled a number of persons to pass into the house without ticket and without payment. For this the manager of the Hall was alone responsible.

The performance itself, in spite of the difficulties of the work, was most meritorious, and was warmly praised by some of the leading daily journals. Every pains had been taken to ensure a good rendering of the music; the amateur talent of the Society's orchestra had been supplemented by a picked band of professional players, and, as principal vocalists, leading artistes had been engaged. The latter were Mrs. Helen Trust, Miss Marian McKenzie, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Andrew Black (Lucifer), and Mr. Charles Hinchliff. In every case the fullest justice was done to the splendid music, and the conductor had reason to be grateful for the way in which every one worked to give a good rendering of the cantata. Miss McKenzie, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. Andrew Black were in specially magnificent voice; and as the orchestral accompaniment was uniformly good, the solos could scarcely have been heard under better conditions.

The chorus had been augmented for the occasion, and nearly 400 singers were on the platform. The parts were very evenly balanced, and all the concerted music was admirably sung. The ladies in the opening scene were very good, and the tenors and basses were most effective in the chorus "Nocte Surgentes," and in scene iii. with "Lucifer." Too much praise cannot be given to the unaccompanied choruses, "O Gladsome Light," and "O Pure in Heart!" the former of which had to be repeated, while the singing of the epilogue, "God sent His Messenger, the Rain," with its wonderfully-written accompaniment of full orchestra, was magnificent. It should be added that Mr. James Twyford, Mus. Bac., was, as usual, at the organ.

The expenses of the concert were naturally very heavy, and as the prices charged for seats were low, a large balance even with a full house could scarcely have been looked for. It is hoped, however, that between twenty and thirty pounds will accrue to the Society's funds.

In any case, such a performance cannot fail to stimulate interest in the Society, and increase its list of members. We learn, however, with regret that Mr. Sydney Beckley, who, in an honorary capacity, has so ably conducted the Society since its commencement, will be unable, for various reasons, to offer himself for re-election next season. Mr. Beckley has worked very hard, and has aimed very high in the interests of the Society, and it is to be earnestly hoped that his retirement from leadership will be followed by the appointment of some gentleman who will be able and willing to devote the time and ability necessary if the Society is to be maintained at its present high level of efficiency.

### Bravery.

ON the 16th February town postman E. Crowther, of Manchester, went to Rostherne Mere for the purpose of skating, and found the water entirely frozen except at one corner where it was thirty feet deep. Two young men (brothers) fell into this hole, and several of the bystanders joined hands with a view to trying to help. The ice naturally cracked, and all retreated except Mr. Crowther, who crawled to the edge of the hole and succeeded in rescuing one of the men, the other being unfortunately drowned. The rescued youth was found to be suffering severely from the effects of the accident; and Mr. Crowther, who had attended ambulance classes held at the office, was able to render further valuable service in restoring circulation.

In reporting the matter, the postmaster points out that the conduct of Crowther was all the more praiseworthy in that he could not swim.

We are glad to learn that the testimonial of the Royal Humane Society was recently presented to Mr. Crowther in a complimentary speech by the presiding magistrate at the Manchester City Police Court.

### The Post Office Guarantee Association.

THE April number of your Magazine (writes Mr. H. Price) contains an article by Mr. Newlands with reference to this Association in which there are some inaccuracies the Committee desire me to correct.

At page 168 it is stated: "We now find that all members are invited to take the full forty shares, and to pay them up if so disposed." This is not so, shares are issued only to officers who are required to give bond, and to the extent only of the guarantee required of them, that is to say, in respect of each £100 of guarantee required, one share. Mr. Winter's speech of 1890, quoted by Mr. Newlands, was quite accurate at the time it was made, but the facts are as I have above stated them, and were so when Mr. Newlands' article appeared. Further, no member is now permitted to pay more than the entrance fee and 5s. in respect of each share.



W. T. DOUGLAS  
(*Tunbridge Wells*).



J. MACMASTER  
(*Paisley*).



R. DOUGLAS  
(*Halifax*).



W. P. REED  
(*Plymouth*).



G. E. E. NOBLE  
(*Sheffield*).



W. WEBB  
(*Redditch*).



SPENCER JAMES  
(*Accrington*).



A. ROBERTSON  
(*Motherwell*).

✧ SOME POSTMASTERS. ✧



Again on page 168 it is stated: "The Committee . . . aided by proxy voting," &c., &c. The Committee had never, when the article in question was written, used proxies for any purpose whatever.

At page 169 it is stated: "To secure a bond will cost her (*i.e.*, a female clerk employed at a branch office) 20s.—more than a week's wages." This is not correct. An officer so employed can obtain a guarantee at a charge of 2s. 6d. per cent. per annum, or, if she desires to take a share, she can, for a payment of 5s. per annum for four years, obtain a guarantee for life with participation in profits.

On page 170 it is stated: "There was a further risk, viz., that created by entering upon fire insurance and other business." I am to say that there was never any risk whatever to the Association from this cause, inasmuch as the entire risk was undertaken by the Royal Insurance Company.

At page 170, after giving some inconsequent figures showing the amount of losses as compared with working expenses, a subject ably dealt with by Mr. H. C. Hart in your January number, a suggestion is made of the kind of guarantee fund that should be instituted by the Postmaster-General. For the information of your readers I am desired to say that, during the last fifty years, scores of such suggestions, some better, some worse, and others almost identical with the suggestion in question, have been made, and that successive Postmasters-General have declined them for the reason stated by Mr. Hart in his article already referred to.

### Tea and Telephones.

THE completion of the new Trunk Telephone lines was celebrated on the 26th June by tea parties at the General Post Office (North) in the afternoon and evening.

In the afternoon the Postmaster-General entertained his friends, and in the evening Mr. Walpole, with Mr. Lamb, Mr. Preece, Mr. Fischer, and others, did the honours for a large party invited by themselves. The telephones brought to us the sweet sounds of cornets and bagpipes from Edinburgh and Glasgow, with songs from Dublin and Belfast, and conversation from other towns, for all of which the visitors were grateful to our distant colleagues. Tea and ices had nothing peculiar about them, but the clerk of the weather rivalled Mr. Preece in the effects produced by a roving thunderstorm, which punctuated the musical notes with sounds like pistol shots at one's ear.

The instrument galleries were thrown open to our visitors, as well as the Library, and primitive forms of telegraph apparatus were shown in the corridors.

Whether or not the Postmaster-General received his guests with a "*Moriturus vos saluto*" we know not; but we are very sorry to lose him, and feel sure that he will not cease to interest himself in us and our doings.

### Essays by H. S. C.\*

WE have lately come across a new book called *Six Vanbrugh Papers*, containing six essays read before the Vanbrugh Literary Society, Blackheath. To two of these essays we observed with pleasure that the initials of our well known and valued colleague and contributor "H. S. C." were appended, and we draw attention to them partly for that reason, and partly because of the entertainment and delight that the essays themselves have afforded us. There is a pleasant promise of something particular to follow in the very titles, one being "Quotation as a mode of thought," and the other, "Personal Superiority." When we saw the latter title we shut the book for a moment and tried to guess what exactly was meant by it. Was it the kind of thing that made the conscripts ready to die for Napoleon? Or the kind of thing that made the Levites tremble when Athalia burst upon them in the temple? When

Cette femme superbe entre, le front levé?

Not at all. We were quite wrong. It is the kind of thing which makes a "superior person" what he is. Everybody knows or ought to know that Lord Beaconsfield, in one of his brilliant moments, branded an unfortunate opponent as a superior person, and that the phrase has been a household word ever since. Concerning the "Superior Person" we learn many interesting and amusing things from H.S.C.'s essay, which we will not spoil by quoting, lest he should be down upon our remarks as a "modern instance" of "quotation as a mode of thought." Until we read these essays of H.S.C.'s our *beau idéal* of a "Superior Person" was Lord Foppington. Now we know better. But Lord Foppington's ideas on "quotation as a mode of thought" are worth recalling. "To mind the inside of a book," he says ("inside" is a good phrase) "is to busy oneself with the forced product of another man's brain. Now to my mind a gentleman of parts and breeding can be very well entertained with the natural sprouts of his own."

### Parade of Telegraph Messengers.

BY direction of the Postmaster-General three years ago a system of drill on military lines was established for the benefit of the telegraph messengers, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. MacGregor, of the Secretary's Office, General Post Office, formerly an officer of the Post Office Rifles. The drill is imparted to the boys by the inspectors of messengers, who are in many cases ex-non-commissioned officers of the army or members of the Army Reserve. About two years ago the Postmaster-General applied to the War Office for the use of rifles or carbines, and a number of Martini-Henry carbines which had been returned to store

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\* *Six Vanbrugh Papers*. Published by C. J. Clark, 4, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, 1895.

on the issue of the Lee-Metford weapon to the cavalry were lent to the Post Office, although the messengers are not even yet officially enrolled at the War Office as a corps of volunteer cadets. There are some 3,500 messenger boys in London, and every boy is drilled once every third week. At several offices there are bugle and drum and fife bands. On two occasions since the initiation of the movement there have been parades of bodies of messengers of about 1,000 strong, before the Postmaster-General and the heads of the Post Office. Upon each a marked improvement was noticed, but on the 13th June an altogether new departure was made, when Lord Methuen, the major-general commanding the home district, who was accompanied by the assistant adjutant-general, inspected a battalion of messenger boys numbering, with their instructors, 1,002, in Hyde Park. There was a large company present to witness the inspection, including Mr. Walpole, Colonel Du Plat Taylor, Mr. Turnor, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Lamb, and Mr. H. C. Fischer. The battalion, which was made up of contingents from all parts of London, stood in 12 companies, each of 30 files. They were drawn up in line to receive the general, with their bands massed in the rear. As Lord Methuen rode up he was saluted in the orthodox fashion, after which he rode along the line, both front and rear. A march past followed, the battalion going by first with companies at open column, and afterwards closed to quarter-column. The marching of some of the companies was excellent, and of all fairly creditable, particularly having regard to the fact that the boys have but few opportunities for drill, and that company parades can only be arranged once in three weeks. After the march past some physical drill was performed to the music of the bands, and subsequently the line was re-formed, and the battalion advanced in review order and again presented arms. Lord Methuen then addressed a few words of encouragement to the boys, and told them he considered the Post Office Corps one of the best of the volunteer battalions he had ever seen, and that he was glad to hear that a large proportion of the messenger boys as they became old enough passed into that battalion, which was one that, from the nature of the occupation of its members and from what he had seen, he was convinced—should at any time the necessity arise—would give a good account of itself in any forced march it might be ordered to undertake. The battalion was afterwards dismissed.

### Das Römische Postwesen.

**M**R. HYDE, our chief authority on early postal history, tells us that the first letter-post, in the modern acceptation of the word, was established in the Hanse towns, and dates from the beginning of the 13th century. We know, of course, that the old-world empires had their postal services, but these were used by the respective governments for government purposes only. The ancient Aztecs of Mexico had a complete system of couriers, a similar

system is reported to have existed in the Persian empire, the Grand Khan had his "runners," and our word "post" is derived from the Latin *positus*, "placed," or "fixed," which (to quote Mr. Hyde) "comes to have its particular application from the posts, or stages, at which on the roads of the Roman empire couriers were maintained for the purpose of conveying news and despatches."

Lucian Maury's "Postes Romaines," a translation of which into German, by Mr. Hubert Schmidt, of the Bühl Post Office, lies before us, deals fully with the postal service of the Roman empire. The first thirty pages of the work may be regarded as an introduction, and form an historical summary of the various means of communication which, at one time or another, have been adopted by mankind. Some of these means cannot by any legitimate stretch of language be characterized as postal. We are told, for instance, of the signal fires of Persians and Greeks, of the establishment of the carrier-pigeon service by Sultan Nur-Eddyn, and of the use by Orientals of swallows with painted wings. Our author is very thorough and very much in earnest. Pliny, Ptolemy, and other ancient writers bear witness to the postal progress of their times; we are introduced to the Phœnicians, the Cypriotes and the ancient Egyptians; we dip into the Rigveda, learn from Abul'feda of the use to which Solomon may have put his doves, and are reminded of the historic dove that once acted as postman for Noah at a time when the floods had disorganized the usual service.

The second and longer part of the work deals solely with the Roman postal service. We are told of its establishment under the Republic, of its management and progress under Augustus, the Flavian Emperors, and the House of Antonine, of the reforms introduced by Diocletian, Constantine, and Theodosius, and of its decline with the fall of the Empire. But this is not all. The various shapes and sizes of the letters and writing-tablets then in use (*epistolæ, tabellæ*), the status and functions of the carriers (*tabellarii, angarii, cursores*), the forms of the vehicles (*meritoria vehiculæ, cisiis, rhedæ*), the different classes into which the post-stations were divided (*civitates, mutationes, and mansiones*), are described in considerable detail. Finally, an appendix bristles with authorities.

We have no doubt that Mr. Schmidt's translation is well done, but our German colleagues are the best judges on this point.

S. E.

### Our Dinner.

ON the 27th March last we gave a small dinner to our leading contributors and supporters at the Criterion, Mr. Edward Bennett in the chair. The guests included Sir Robert Hunter, Mr. Buxton Forman, Messrs. Ardron, Bruce, Carey, Mackay, Stephens, Higgs, and Laurie of the Secretary's Office; Messrs. Housden, Belcher, and Rogers of the Savings Bank; Mr. Somers (L.P.S.); Mr. Hartung of the R. & A.G.O., one of the founders of *Blackfriars Magazine*; Mr. Fleetwood (Engineer); Mr. Denyer (M.O.O.) and



others. The Chairman proposed the usual loyal toasts, and Mr. W. P. Bryne, now of the Home Office and late of our Department, gave "The Post Office," to which Sir Robert Hunter replied. Sir Robert related some amusing misconceptions which existed in the public mind as to the duties of the Solicitor to the Post Office, and he also expressed his opinion strongly in favour of the value of the Magazine to the Department. Mr. Housden proposed, in a very witty speech, the toast of "The Magazine," and chaffed the Editor and Committee on their various shortcomings. Mr. Beckley in reply stated that the circulation, which increased year by year, was now considerably over 3,000, and that from the farthest parts of the earth he received letters expressing interest in and gratitude to the Magazine. He went on to state that he intended shortly to retire from the management, and he suggested that some other gentleman from the Secretary's Office should volunteer to carry on the work, though he could not promise him a bed of roses. The Chairman proposed "Our Guests," and in remarking upon Mr. Beckley's threatened resignation, pointed out how extremely awkward it was to conduct such a venture from any other office than the Secretary's. He spoke with some experience, as for the past ten years we had had a Post Office Magazine, and with one exception, he believed he had contributed to every number that had been published. He thanked Sir Robert Hunter and Mr. Buxton Forman for their presence that evening and for their support in the past. Mr. Buxton Forman replied and congratulated the management on the improvement effected in the Magazine during the last few years. He especially congratulated Mr. Carey upon his verses. Mr. Somers, in proposing "The Chairman," alluded to his long friendship with that gentleman who, he said, had during that period abandoned all the opinions he once held with the solitary exception of those of a political character, which were as regrettable as ever. The musical arrangements were much appreciated. We were able in the person of our Sub-Editor, Mr. Sherwin Engall, to supply a pianist and musical composer of no mean order, and his setting of two songs of Keats and Shelley ("Faery Song" and "My spirit like a charmed bark") was ably rendered by Mr. W. H. Braden, who contributed other valuable help at the entertainment. Mr. Rogers gave a recitation, and Mr. R. P. Shepard sang two songs. More than one of the speakers referred to the great value which was set upon the Magazine in the provinces, where its publication each quarter was looked forward to with great interest, and where it was regarded as a link between them and the Head Office.

### Corrections of our Last Number.

PAGES 148-9. We fear that the type of person represented by "P.G." is not altogether an uncommon one, for as soon as our last number appeared men were running all about the G.P.O.

saying, "Who is P.G.?" It seemed to us very necessary that the problem should be solved, so we wrote to ask the author. As we got no answer we wrote again, but with no satisfactory result. However, we pegged away at him until, like Hashbaz Ben, he got "awful riled"; but as we were not present we cannot say whether he "busted into tears." However that may be, he wrote us a powerfully worded letter in which he remarked that he was sick of the subject and us, and then went on to explain that what he had written was not "P.G." at all but "F.J." On the whole we wish we had left the man alone, or at any rate bribed him, as Byron said he had bribed his grandmother's review. But it is too late now, as he has bound us over to make the correction under threat to write no more for us unless we do. We must therefore ask our readers to delete "P.G." wherever found and substitute "F.J." (We fear they will hardly be able to get the "B" in.)

Page 197. The illustration is from a sketch kindly lent by Messrs. Percy Lund & Co., Bradford.

Page 234. Line 28. For "that famous song Father O'Flynn" read "the Blarney Ballads."

Page 245. Line 22. For "G. C. Hall" read "C. G. Hall."

### Odds and Ends.

IN 1893 there were two smoking concerts and in 1894 there was only one. All these were, we believe, got up by the Post Office Cricket Club. The club, we understand, still exists, but where are the smoking concerts? Do the committee intend to leave it to the magazine (as long as there is one) to provide concerts as well as dinners? There are rumours that the Musical Society is not likely to prove a permanent institution; while the Savings Bank, which has hitherto been famous for a local patriotism of its own, seems to be entirely losing it. Its annual sports last month were patronised by some forty men all told, and we no longer hear of any dinners among its members. Is there nobody within the G.P.O. except ourselves who can get together a number of post office men for any social purpose whatever? It would seem as though the influence of the jubilee functions in promoting sociability is rapidly wearing out, and that we shall soon be as we were before 1890.

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AT the Annual General Meeting of the Civil Service Insurance Society held at the War Office last April under the Presidency of Sir Ralph Knox, K.C.B., the Accountant-General of the Army, Mr. C. S. Keen, of the Central Telegraph Office, was elected to a seat on the Committee of Management in the place of Mr. A. W. Tucker, of the Customs. By the election of Mr. Keen, the Post Office has four representatives on this Committee, viz.:—Messrs. L. Incledon and C. D. Upham of the Receiver and Accountant General's Department, and L. Halcrow and C. S. Keen of the Central Telegraphs.

**L**IEUTENANT HARLEY, of the Indian Staff Corps, who distinguished himself so greatly at the siege of Chitral, is the son of Mr. Harley, Postmaster of Manchester.

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**A**MONG recent minor alterations we may chronicle the change under which the hour of stamping will gradually appear on post-marks in plain figures.

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**T**HOSE of our readers who are interested in the Benevolent Society will do well to compare Mr. Bennett's account of the meetings this year and last year. What he said last year as to the mode of proceeding indulged in by some delegates was severe, and was at the time much resented. Some friends of the magazine refused to renew their subscriptions, alleging this as a reason, and Mr. Bennett himself was forced into a long exchange of letters with aggrieved obstructionists. Still we are sure that he cannot regret what he did when he sees the surprising change which has come about in consequence of his article. In more than one provincial office the members of the society for the first time took the trouble to attend in force when the delegates were chosen; and, having assembled, they took care to replace the persons who had for years wasted the time of the conference on points of order by men who really meant business. The results were very visible, not only in the general conduct of business, but also in the passing of a resolution to abate useless talk by holding a general meeting in future once in two years only. We heartily congratulate Mr. Bennett on this, as also on another fortunate event hinted at in his article.

### Answers to Correspondents.

**N**EW SOUTH WALES.—We have to thank Mr. Arndell of Sydney, and Mr. Shipley of Katoomba for photographs duly received. We hope to reproduce some in our next.

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**Q**UETTA.—Three instalments of manuscript to hand for which we thank you. Some of it will appear in the October issue.

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**Q**UEENSLAND.—We wrote to you fully on the 15th April, and sent a further letter on the 16th May. The former must have reached you soon after your postcard of the 17th May was written. We are sending you two additional copies of Nos. 17 and 18 as requested.

# Promotions.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sec.'s Office (C.E.B.)	Cann, W. ... ..	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	S.B., '72; Cl. Lr. Div., '77; S.O., '81; Cl. C.E.B., '84; 2nd Cl., '86
"	Monk, J. T. ... ..	" ... ..	S.B., '71; Cl. Lr. Div., '77; Cl. C.E.B., '84; 2nd Cl., '86
"	Beer, T. ... ..	" ... ..	Cl. Lr. Div. S.O., '77; Cl. C.E.B., '84; 2nd Cl. '91
"	Granville, S. ... ..	2nd Cl. Cl. ... ..	Cl. Lr. Div. S.B., '79; C.E.B., '86
"	Germain, C. ... ..	" ... ..	S.C. & T., Winchester, '80; C.E.B., '86
"	Mills, E. W. ... ..	" ... ..	S.C. & T., B'ham, '81; C.E.B., '86
"	Prime, W.... ... ..	" ... ..	Boy Cl. M.O.O., '80; Cl. Lr. Div., '82; C.E.B., '86
"	Leckenby, J. P. ... ..	" ... ..	Boy Cl. C.E.B., '83; Cl. Lr. Div. R.A.G.O., '85; C.E.B., '86
"	Scott, G. J. R.... ..	" ... ..	S.C., L'pool, '79; C.E.B., '87
"	Plänck, J. O. ... ..	2nd Cl. Travlg. Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T., Gloucester, '86; C.E.B., '86
"	Drummond, J. A. B. ... ..	" ... ..	Boy Cl. S.B., '81; Cl. Lr. Div. R.A.G.O., '83; C.E.B., '87
Sur. Dept. ...	Brown, J. F. ... ..	As. Sur., Nth. Mid. Dis. ... ..	Cl., Glou., '73; C.E.B., '83; Sur. Cl., '85
Pl. Stores Dep.	Ogden, H.... ... ..	Supr. ... ..	S.B., '77; Cl. C.E.B., '85; C.O., L.P.S.D., '87
"	Fugeman, F. W. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	1881; Ju. Cl., '93
R.A.G.O. ...	Davies, H. ... ..	Accountant ... ..	S.B., '72; R.A.G.O., '74; As. Acct., '92
"	Diplock, W. D. ... ..	As. Accountant ... ..	1870; 1st Cl. Cl., '92; Ex., '92

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
R.A.G.O. ...	Mathais, H. W.	Ex. ... ..	S.B., '68; R.A.G.O., '72; Hr. Grade 2nd Div., '90
„ (P.O.B.)	Miss E. V. Monnickendam	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
S.B. ... ..	Leal, C. E. ...	Sub. Contr. ... ..	1865; Genl. Body, '67; P.C., '91
„ ... ..	Everitt, G. R. ...	P.C. ... ..	1865; Genl. Body, '67; As. P.C., '92
„ ... ..	Leach, T. ... ..	As. P.C. ... ..	1863; Genl. Body, '67
„ ... ..	McCallum, J. T.	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	C.D., '68; S.B., '70; Hr. Grade 2nd Div., '90
„ .. ...	Hillier, C. T. ..	„ ... ..	1868; Hr. Grade 2nd Div., '90
„ ... ..	Booth, W. ... ..	2nd Div. Hr. Grade	Boy Cl., '74
„ ... ..	Barwell, E. ...	„	Boy Cl., '74
„ ... ..	Newman, W. T.	„	Boy Cl., '74
E. in C.O. ...	Dickson, J. ...	2nd Cl. Ju. Cl. ...	T., Glasgow, '85
„ ... ..	Dutton, S. ...	Up. Sec. R.C. ...	1873; E. in C.O., '86
„ ... ..	Lunn, J. ... ..	1st Cl. Ju. Cl. ...	2nd Cl. T., Newc-on-Tyne, '87; E. in C.O., '91
C. of S.O. ...	Watkins, W. B.	1st Cl. Ex. ... ..	T. W.C.D.O., '71; C. of S.O., '80; 2nd Cl. Ex., '94
„ ... ..	Barnes, C. L. ...	„ ... ..	T. W.C.D.O., '75; C. of S.O., '84; 2nd Cl. Ex., '94
L.P.S.D.— (Paddn.) ...	Herbert, W. D.	Pmr. ... ..	S.B., '62; P.C., '81; Pmr. W.C.D.O., '91
(W.C.D.O.)	Naylor, I. ... ..	„ ... ..	1865; As. Sup., Pad., '81; Ch. Cl., '84; Pmr., Wandsworth, '90
(Wandsworth) (Paddn.) ...	Gibson, J. K. ...	„ ... ..	1868; Ch. Cl., Pad., '87
„ ... ..	Anderson, H. E.	Ch. Cl. ... ..	M. T. Co., '62; Cl. N.W.D.O., '85; Ch. Offr. of Sortg. Off. S.W., '91; Ch. Cl. W.C., '92; E.D.O., '92
(E.D.O.) ...	Powell, J. ... ..	„ ... ..	E.T.Co., '62; Cl. E.D.O., '85
Circn. Office ...	Turner, J. G. ..	1st Cl. Cl. for Sortg. purposes	1873; Cl. Cir. Off. L.P.S.D., '91
„ ... ..	Carr, W. J. ...	In. T.P.O. ... ..	1860
„ ... ..	Bowhill, H. R. ...	In. ... ..	1870; O., '88
„ ... ..	Mundy, A. E. ...	Overseer ... ..	1875; 1st Cl. Sr., '82
„ ... ..	Lighton, G. W.	„ ... ..	1873; 1st Cl. Sr., '85
„ ... ..	Raine, J. ... ..	„ ... ..	1873; 1st Cl. Sr., '84
„ ... ..	Gray, J. E. ... ..	„ ... ..	1879; 1st Cl. Sr., '88
„ ... ..	Sales, F. ... ..	1st. Cl. Sr. ... ..	2nd Cl., '81
„ ... ..	Allen, A. C. ... ..	„ ... ..	1878
„ ... ..	Eales, T. ... ..	„ ... ..	1880
„ ... ..	Schrod, C. J. ...	„ ... ..	1880
„ ... ..	Hill, E. A. ... ..	„ ... ..	1880
„ ... ..	Flack, E. R. ...	„ ... ..	1881

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Circn. Office ...	Whalley, E. P.	1st Cl. Sr. ...	1882
" ...	Clark, J. ...	" ...	1876
" ...	Townsend, A. A.	" ...	1879
" ...	Loveday, T. T.	" ...	1879
" ...	Holmes, R. ...	" ...	1881
" ...	Kramer, J. ...	" ...	1881
" ...	Trigg, T. J. ...	" ...	1881
" ...	Arnott, W. ...	" ...	1881
" ...	Turpin, E. A. ...	" ...	1882
" ...	Clegg, A. ...	" ...	1882
" ...	Eastick, W. H. ...	" ...	1882
E.C. ...	Savage, H. W. ...	In. Up. Sec. ...	1870; In., '93
" ...	Parke, C. ...	" Lr. Sec. ...	1870; Supervisor, '90
E.C.D.O. ...	Miss C. Hill	4th Cl. Supervisor	1873
" ...	" E. A. Fone	"	1875; 1st Cl. Cm., '84
" ...	" A. A. Bonner	"	1876; 1st Cl. Cm., '84
" ...	" M. E. Poulter	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	1884
" ...	" S. M. Brittain	"	1884
" ...	" A. Swales ...	"	1884
" ...	" A. H. Roberts	"	1886
" ...	" K. M. Sowerter	"	1885
" ...	" E. P. Cavey	"	1885
S.W.D.O. ...	" J. McLees ...	"	1885
E.D.O. ...	Collins, F. ...	1st Cl. O. ...	1867; 2nd Cl. O., '86
" ...	Langmead, O. ...	"	1868; 2nd Cl. O., '87
" ...	Caplen, W. M. ...	2nd Cl. O. ...	1874
" ...	Neave, S. ...	"	1876
" ...	Allis, W. J. ...	"	1878
N.D.O. ...	Ward, W. M. ...	"	1880; 2nd Cl. Sr., '84; 1st Cl., '90
Wandsworth ...	Batchelor, H. ...	1st Cl. O. ...	1872; Head Pn., '82; 2nd Cl. O., '86
" ...	Golding, H. H.	2nd Cl. O. ...	1882; 2nd Cl. Sr., '86; 1st Cl., '92
N.W.D.O. ...	Dashfield, C. ...	In. ...	1871; O., '83
" ...	Devall, J. ...	1st Cl. O. ...	1860
" ...	Lowman, W. F.	"	1878; 2nd Cl. Sr., '81; 2nd Cl. O., '90
" ...	Kemp, G. ...	2nd Cl. O. ...	1881; 1st Cl. Sr., '90
" ...	Miss J. I. T. Porter	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	2nd Cl., '85
Ealing ...	Miss C. A. Smart	"	Newc. - on - Tyne, '83; 2nd Cl. Cm. & T., N.W., '86

## PROVINCES—ENGLAND AND WALES.

Andover ...	Tredgold, H. ...	Cl. ...	S.C. & T., '83
Bath ...	Brice, T. ...	As. Sup. (P.) ...	T., '70; S.C., '75; Cl., '91
" ...	Tiley, J. H. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. & T. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. & T., '76; 1st Cl. S.C., '84
" ...	Hatcher, J. H. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '82

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Brighton ...	†Evans, C. F. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '84
" ...	Hobbs, E. W. ...	" ...	2nd Cl., '84
Bristol ...	Miss A. C. Barnett	Supr. ...	S.C. & T., '77; 1st Cl. S.C., '84
" ...	" E. E. Taylor	1st Cl. S.C. ...	1877
Cardiff ...	Williams, E. S. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '85
Chester ...	Chambers, W. H. A. B. McD.	As. Sup. (P.) ...	1866
Falmouth ...	Cox, J. N. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	S.C. & T., '70
Folkestone ...	Boorn, R. W. ...	" ...	Brighton, '70; S.C. & T., Folkestone, '77
Grimsby ...	Smith, W. J. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '80
" ...	Hollingsworth, W. C.	" ...	2nd Cl., '81
" ...	Johnson, W. B. ...	" ...	2nd Cl., '83
" ...	Binns, J. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '77
" ...	Hancock, C. A. ...	" ...	Sheffield, '76; Grimsby, '78
" ...	Crabtree, T. H. ...	" ...	2nd Cl., '81
Hull ...	George, A. ...	Cl. (P) ...	S.C. 2nd Cl., '80; 1st Cl., '87
" ...	Butler, E. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '73
Leeds ...	Miss C. A. Newill.	As. Supr. ...	1872
" ...	" M. Davidson	" ...	2nd Cl., '76; 1st Cl., '87
Liverpool ...	Gracey, J. ...	Sup. (P.) ...	1873; Cl., '82; As. Sup., '86
" ...	Gorman, H. M. ...	As. Sup. (1st Cl.) ...	1870; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '91
" ...	Pope, S. ...	" (2nd Cl.) ...	1872; Cl. (P.), '86
" ...	Henderson, A. J. ...	Cl. (P.) ...	1879; 1st Cl. S.C., '86
" ...	Jones, R. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '86
" ...	Miss F. Pritchard	1st Cl. T. ...	2nd Cl., '85
" ...	" A. C. Anderson	" ...	2nd Cl., '85
Lowestoft ...	Parfitt, W. J. ...	As. Sup. ...	1870
" ...	Parfitt, F. ...	Cl. ...	1873
Manchester ...	Jackson, W. M. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '81
" ...	Miss F. M. Ramage	1st Cl. Cm. & Ret.	2nd Cl., '91
Oldham ...	Eaton, J. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	S.C., Manchester, '75; Cl., '90
Plymouth ...	Monk, W. H. ...	As. Sup. ...	Elec. T. Co., '63; Cl., '91
" ...	Martin, G. H. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '85
" ...	Miss E. B. Lewarn	1st Cl. T. ...	T., Bristol, '88; Plymouth, '89
Sheffield ...	" J. P. Gregson	1st Cl. T. ...	S.C. & T., Rochdale, '82; Barnsley, '83
Southampton ...	Harvey, S. L. ...	As. Sup. (P.) ...	S.C., '77; Cl., '90
" ...	Awbery, A. ...	Cl. (P.) ...	1874; 1st Cl. S.C., '86
" ...	Griffiths, J. A. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ...	1890
Stockton-on-Tees ...	Hauxwell, H. W.	Cl. ...	S.C. & T., '83
Stoke-on-Trent ...	Hardwicke, H. J.	1st Cl. S.C. ...	2nd Cl., '82
Wigan ...	Leah, G. W. ...	Cl. ...	Preston, '70; S.C. & T., Wigan, '74
York ...	Waite, G. W. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	1876

† This entry to stand in place of the one which appeared in the April number.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>			
Aberdeen	Shepherd, D.L...	Sup. (T.)	Elec. Tel. Co., '65; Cl. Edin., '87; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '91
"	Brown, W...	Cl. (T.)	1874
"	Milne, A.	1st Cl. T.	2nd Cl., '83
Edinburgh	Deane, R.O'C.N.	Sur., North Dis.	1870; En. Dep., '71; Sur. Cl., '80; As. Sur., '92
"	Gordon, J.	2nd Cl. As. Sup. (T.)	U. K. T. Co., '69; 1st Cl. T., Aberdeen, '87; Cl., '89
"	Wardlaw, J.	1st Cl. S.C.	1879
Glasgow	Robertson, J.	1st Cl. T.	2nd Cl., '84
Inverness	Miss J.H. McLeod	"	" '76

**IRELAND.**

Dublin	Evanson, W.A.D.	Sur., Mid. Dis.	1869; R. A. G. O., '72; Sur. Cl., '83; As. Sur., '92
"	Gardiner, M. J.	As. Sur., Nth. Dis.	T., Cork, '74; Sur. Cl., '85.
"	Donovan, P.	App. Ex.	1874; Sec.'s Off., Dub., '86
"	Kerr, H. J.	"	1877; S. Off., Dub., '79.
"	Dunne, R.	Clk. (P.)	1879; Sr., '80; 1st Cl., '90



# Retirements.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sur. Dept. ...	Burckhardt, A.A.	Sur.... ...	S.O., 47; Cl. in Ch., '53; S.O. '54; Sur. Cl., '55; Sur., '66
Sec.'s Office ...	Hodgson, J. J. ...	News Distr. ...	Intel. Beh., '72
S.B. .. ...	Rishworth, S. ...	Sub. Contr. ...	R.A.G.O., '57; Constantinople, '58; S.B., '61; P. C., '75; Book keeper, '78; Sub. Contr., '92
" ... ..	Miss F.M.Cooper	1st Cl. Cl. ...	1881; 1st Cl., '93
" ... ..	* ,, A. J. Win- yard	Cl. ... ..	1890
" ... ..	* ,, M. Murray	" ... ..	1891
C.T.O. ... ..	Tyler, W. H. T.	Sup. ... ..	El. T. Co., '55; Sup., '71
" ... ..	Bilson, S. ...	2nd Cl. As. Sup. ...	1867; C.T.O., '70
" ... ..	Goodhew, G. ...	Senr. Tel. ...	1870; 1st Cl. T. '81
" ... ..	Parrott, J....	1st Cl. T. ...	Mag. T. Co., '63
" ... ..	Coles, H. T. ...	" ... ..	Bridgwater, '75; Barnstaple, '76; C.T.O., '81
" ... ..	*Stubbs, W. G. ...	" ... ..	Sub. T. Co. G.P.O. '89
" ... ..	Miss Manley ...	As. Supvr. ...	1870; 1st Cl. T., '81; Supv., '90
" ... ..	Miss E. Hoare...	1st Cl. T. ...	El. T. Co., '68; 1st Cl. T., '76
" ... ..	*Marshall, J. ...	2nd Cl. T. ...	S. C. & T. Wantage, '88; C. T. O., '91
" ... ..	Miss E. L. Som- mers	" ... ..	'84
L.P.S.D. (Circn. Off.)	Chesson, J. ...	In. ... ..	1851; Sr., '55
" ... ..	Buckle, H. ...	Travelling In. ...	1855; Sr., '61
" ... ..	Johnston, F. H. .	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	1868; W. Cl., '74
" ... ..	Lyell, J. ...	O. ... ..	1864
" ... ..	Triphick, A. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	2nd Cl., '82
" ... ..	Palmer, H. ...	" ... ..	1861
" ... ..	Mulleady, J. ...	" ... ..	1863
" ... ..	Saxton, W. ...	" ... ..	1859; Sr., '65
" ... ..	Long, C. ...	" ... ..	1862; Sr., '74
" ... ..	*Osborne, A. E....	2nd Cl. Sr. ...	'82
" ... ..	*Johnson, C. H....	" ... ..	S.C. Southport, '87
" ... ..	Simmons, F. S....	" ... ..	1881; 2nd Cl. S., '84
W.C.D.O.	Bullock, S. ...	1s Cl. O. ...	1863; Sr., '72
" ... ..	Benn, T. ...	" Sr. ...	1857; Sr., '65
S.W.D.O.	*Miss I. R. Smith	2nd Cl. Cm. & T....	'89
N.W.D.O.	Everest, W. H. .	1st Cl. O. ...	1857; 2nd Cl. O., '85
" ... ..	Miss E.J.Pridgeon	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	1870

\*Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
<b>PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.</b>			
Barrow-in-Furness ...	Leah, W. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '61; S.C. & T., '81; Ch. Cl., '87
Birmingham ...	Walker, G. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. ...	1855
Bognor ...	*Jones, H. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1886
Bournemouth ...	Swaine, W. J. S. ...	" ...	Manr., '74; Gosport, '89; Bournemouth, '90
Bradford ...	*Blyth, M. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. ...	1888
Cardigan ...	*Miss S. J. Evans ...	S.C. & T. ...	1886
Coventry ...	Towell, W. ...	" ...	S.C., Hull, '71; Stamford, '72; Coventry, '86.
Dawlish ...	Mrs. E. Sawdye ...	Pmr. ...	1868
Dover ...	Emery, T. B. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1870
Gloucester ...	Mitchell, C. ...	Sup. (T.) ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '54; As. Sup., '91; Sup., '92
Liverpool ...	*Miss E.A. Wilkin-son ...	2nd Cl. T. ...	1889
Manchester ...	Birtles, J. ...	" ...	1882
" ...	Miss E. S. Matthews ...	1st Cl. Cm. & Ret. ...	1883; 1st Cl., '93
" ...	*Miss A. Wigley ...	2nd Cl. T. ...	1887
" ...	*" M. E. Reynolds ...	" ...	1891
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	Wright, W. A. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. ...	1884
Portsmouth ...	*Dyer, E. G. ...	" ...	1888; S.C., '92
Sheffield ...	Robinson, W. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '59; 1st Cl. T., '86
Swansea ...	*Miss M.E. Davies ...	2nd Cl. T. ...	1886
Swindon ...	Callway, W. H. ...	Pmr. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '54; Swindon, '85
Torquay ...	Featherstone, W. ...	" ...	York, '53; Ch. Cl., '68; Pmr., Devonport, '81; Torquay, '86
W. Hartlepool..	Tomlinson, J. ...	Cl. ...	1871
Wolverhampton	*Miers, L. M. ...	2nd Cl. T. ...	1888
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>			
Dundee ...	Proudfoot, P. ...	Ch. Cl. ...	Cl., '47; Ch. Cl., '81
Glasgow ...	*Logan, T. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. ...	1893
<b>IRELAND.</b>			
Belfast ...	Shepperd, H. J. ...	Pmr. ...	Cl., Leeds, '53; M.O.O., Lond., '55; S.O., Dublin, '70
Castlereagh ...	McDermott, S. ...	" ...	1866
Cork ...	Miss O'Sullivan ...	2nd Cl. T. ...	1883
Dublin ...	Mollan, W. ...	P.C. ...	Dundalk, '49; Dublin, '56; 2nd Cl. Cl., S.O., '63; 1st Cl., '68; P.C., '68
" ...	Flanagan, J. ...	2nd Cl. S.C. ...	1860
" ...	† Maberly, L.F.S. ...	Cl.-in-Charge ...	Sur. Cl., '46; Cl.-in-Charge, '55

\* Awarded a Gratuity. † Retires under the provisions of the Order in Council of the 15th August, 1890.

## Deaths.

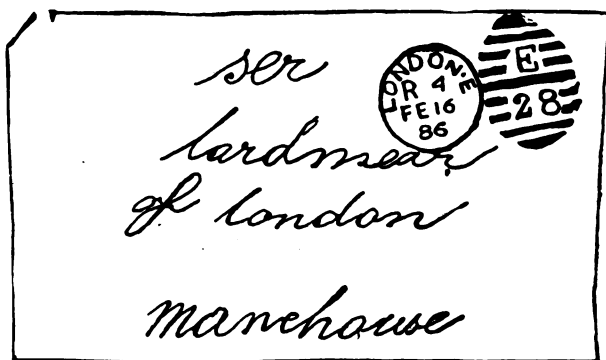
OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Postal Stores Dept.	Roe, F. ... ..	Sup. ... ..	Boy Cl., C.D., '72; R.A.G.O., '76; Sur. Cl., '85; R.A.G.O., '85; Sup. P.S.D., '94
S.B. ... ..	Foster, J. ... ..	1st Cl. Cl. ... ..	1865; Genl. Body, '67; 1st Cl. Cl., '92
" ... ..	Meek, W. A. ... ..	2nd Div. Cl. ... ..	Boy Cl., '79; 2nd Div. Cl., '80
" ... ..	Reynett, F. E. ... ..	2nd " T. ... ..	1863; Cl., Lr. Div., '77
C.T.O. ... ..	Miss M. Hossack.	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1893
L.P.S.D. (Con- tr.'s Office)	Webb, H. G. ... ..	1st Cl. O. ... ..	1869
Cirn. Off. ... ..	Wheeler, A. C. ... ..	In. ... ..	1857; O., '67
" ... ..	Hone, H. ... ..	O. ... ..	1873; Sr., '75; 1st Cl., '76
" ... ..	Phillips, R. C. ... ..	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1871; 2nd Cl., '74
" ... ..	Hall, C. ... ..	2nd Cl. Sr. ... ..	1882
" ... ..	Harvey, L. H. ... ..	" ... ..	1893
" ... ..	O'Connell, W. A. ... ..	" ... ..	1891
E.C.D.O. ... ..	Martin, G. J. ... ..	1st Cl. Cm. and T. ... ..	1872; 2nd Cl., '81
S.E.D.O. ... ..	Clay, A. H. ... ..	2nd Cl. Sr. ... ..	1893
Birmingham ... ..	Noble, C. W. ... ..	2nd Cl. S. C. ... ..	1891
Briton Ferry ... ..	Mrs. B. Jones ... ..	Pms. ... ..	1882
Cambridge ... ..	Wisher, S. A. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	C.T.O., '88; Cambridge, '90
Carlisle ... ..	Potts, T. A. ... ..	" ... ..	1889
Dursley ... ..	Mrs. S. E. Knapp	Pms. ... ..	1887
Eastbourne ... ..	Day, A. H. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1887
Ipswich ... ..	Wetmon, C. ... ..	2nd Cl. S. C. ... ..	1863
Gloucester ... ..	Mills, J. ... ..	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1860; Cl., '71; As. Sup., '91; Sup. '93
Liverpool ... ..	Blackhurst, T. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	Ormskirk, '90; L'pool, '91
Newcastle-on- Tyne	Fergusson, J. McG.	" ... ..	1892
Plymouth ... ..	Miss E. R. McIn- tyre	" ... ..	1894
St. Austell ... ..	Ham, S. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1885
Warwick ... ..	Bell, E. S. ... ..	Pmr. ... ..	Cl., Nottingham, '61; Pmr., Ventnor, '80; Warwick, '91
York ... ..	Harland, W. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	W. Hartlepool, '75; 2nd Cl. T., York, '79
Edinburgh ... ..	Nisbet, F. H. M. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	T., Hamilton, '80; Edin- burgh, '83
Falkirk ... ..	Miller, J. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	Glasgow, '92; Falkirk, '92
Glasgow ... ..	Hamilton, J. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '81
Wishaw ... ..	Johnstone, Jas. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1888
Belfast ... ..	Ellis, R. ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	1870
Cork ... ..	Bourke, J. F. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	S.C. and T., Curragh Camp, '85; Cork, '89
Dublin ... ..	Farrar, J. E. ... ..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	Belfast, '72; Dublin, '74
" ... ..	Graham, W. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1891
Limavady ... ..	Martin, J. B. ... ..	Pmr. ... ..	1863
Limerick ... ..	Neville, H. J. ... ..	As. Sup. (P.) ... ..	1874; 1st Cl. S.C., '84; Cl., '88

## *Postmasters Appointed.*

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Dawlish ... ..	Jaquet, C. ... ..	1877; G.P.O., '85; As. Cl. Sec. Off., '93; Pmr., Brandon, '94
Grays ... ..	Weddall, J. D. ... ..	S.C. & T., Accrington, '72; Cl., '87; Ch. Cl., '91
	POSTMASTER AND SURVEYOR.	
Belfast ... ..	Delany, P. ... ..	Mag. Tel. Co., '62; Sur. Cl., '77; P.C., S.O., Dublin, '86; Contr. Sort. Off., '91

### ABBREVIATIONS.

As., Assistant; Cl., Clerk; Cm., Counterman or Counterwoman; En., Engineer; Ex., Examiner; In., Inspector; Ju., Junior; Ms., Messenger; O., Overseer; P.C., Principal Clerk; Pn., Postman; Pmr., Postmaster; Pr. Kr., Paper Keeper; R.C., Relay Clerk; Ret., Returner; Sr., Sorter; S.C., Sorting Clerk; Sup., Superintendent or Superintending; Supr., Supervisor; Sur., Surveyor; T., Telegraphist; Tr., Tracer.



HUMOURS OF THE POST OFFICE.

(From a block kindly lent by the Proprietors of the *Strand Magazine*.)

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HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NORFOLK, E.M., K.G.  
(*Postmaster-General.*)

[*To face page 385.*]

# ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

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OCTOBER, 1895.

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## *Dr. von Stephan.*



ON the 26th April last His Excellency Dr. von Stephan completed 25 years of service as head of the German Postal Administration. An event of so much interest and significance should not pass unnoticed in the pages of *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, for the fame of the great German Postmaster-General extends far beyond the confines of the Empire on behalf of which, for so many years, he has "scorned delights and lived laborious days." Indeed, it is Dr. von Stephan's especial glory that his great work of creating and consolidating the present German Postal Service has not hindered him from taking a leading part in movements having for their object the development of the world's commerce and the furtherance of international amity.

Not many miles from the sea, in Pomerania, flattest and lowest of Prussian provinces, lies the little town of Stolp, famous alike for its old Latin school, which dates back to the middle ages, and for its beautiful breed of horses. Here, on the 27th January, 1831, Heinrich Stephan was born, and here, in due time, he was sent to the old school, within whose walls so many distinguished men have received their first instruction. We gather, not only from the accounts of his old playmates but also from his own words, that in those early days Heinrich showed a very considerable aptitude for fighting, taking an even keener interest in his battles, out of which he generally came victorious, than in his lessons. In a speech delivered in 1879, on the occasion of the opening of a new Post

Office at Stolp, Dr. von Stephan made an interesting reference to these school days. "We preferred to fight our battles, many of them very fierce ones, on the sward near the Church, where the new Post Office now stands, and it was here that we came into conflict with Arnold, the Burgomaster. Our head-master, Decker, who will be remembered by most of those present, called me a young vulture (*Geierjunge*). This was the first title bestowed upon me."\*



COLOGNE POST OFFICE.

In addition to the school curriculum, Stephan had private lessons in English, Italian and Spanish, thus laying the foundation of his extensive knowledge of modern languages. But he did not enter the University. His father, a merchant-tailor and town councillor, could not be called rich, and at the age of seventeen (on the 20th February, 1848) Stephan began his career as a "learner" (*Post-*

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\* From *Unter dem Zeichen des Verkehrs*, p. 143. Berlin, 1895. This interesting work is the first trustworthy account that has been published of the life and labours of Germany's great Postmaster-General. It has been freely drawn upon in the present article.



*eleve*) at the office in his native town. There he speedily showed marked ability and zeal; he studied assiduously during his spare hours, and in September, 1850, passed with honours the examination for "postal assistant" (*Post-Assistent*). Between 1850 and '56, changes occurred which would appear to indicate that he was already attracting the attention of those in authority, for he was transferred first to the Marienburg Post Office, and subsequently to those at Danzig, Cologne and Berlin. The transfer to Berlin, in January, 1856, which must be regarded as the turning point in his career, was due no doubt in great measure to the exceptionally brilliant manner in which during the previous year he had passed a further examination, at that time obligatory upon all who aspired to the higher postal appointments.

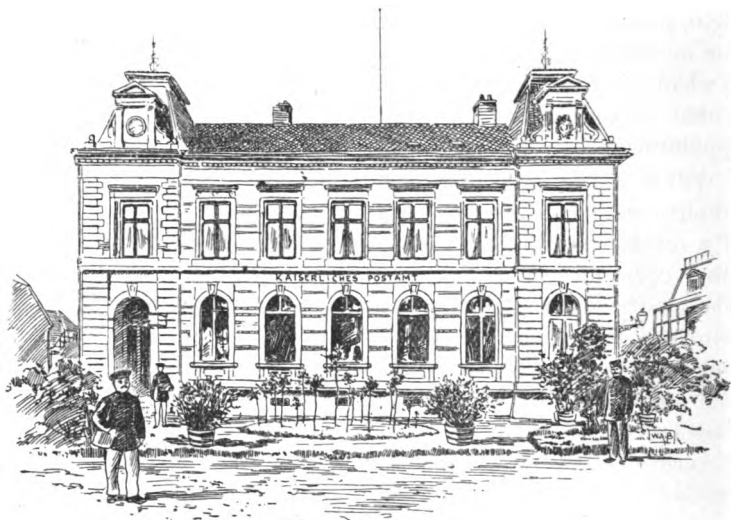
Within a twelvemonth of his installation at the Central Office, Stephan was empowered to investigate and report upon the question of a revision and simplification of the tariff between Prussia and the other countries of the then-existing Austro-German Postal Union. The matter was one that required delicate handling, for the various principalities and powers concerned were tenacious of their rights and privileges. Changes were evidently necessary. It might be said with but little or no exaggeration that the postal charges were in most cases exorbitant; in some, prohibitive; and in all, anomalous. Stephan's report was entirely in favour of simplification and unification, and he had the satisfaction of seeing most of his proposals carried into effect at the Munich Postal Conference of 1857.

Shortly afterwards, Stephan attained to the dignity of "postal councillor" (*Postrath*). About this time he was engaged at the Potsdam Office, but in 1859 was again called to Berlin as his services were required in connection with a revision of the rules and regulations of the Service. In 1863 he was appointed "superior postal councillor" (*Ober-Postrath*) at the Central Office; in 1865 he became "privy councillor of posts" (*Geheimer-Postrath*); in 1868, "superior privy councillor of posts" (*Geheimer-Ober-Postrath*); and on the 20th April, 1870, not many months before the outbreak of the Franco-German war, was nominated General Post Director of the North German Confederation.\* Although the various and formidable titles of the German postal hierarchy do not admit of exact English equivalents, their significance, in Stephan's case, must

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\*After the establishment of the German Empire the title was altered to Imperial General Post Director and subsequently to Postmaster-General.

be unmistakeable to all. Within a period of twenty-two years he had risen from the rank of "learner" at a small provincial town to the position of supreme head of the Prussian Postal Administration. A review of his chief official and literary achievements during the twelve years immediately preceding his appointment as Director, clearly shows that his rapid advancement was the result of remarkable abilities and most distinguished services.



BÜHL (BADEN) POST OFFICE.\*

In the literary field it is interesting to find that the earliest production (written in 1858) was an article on the subject of the Rowland Hill penny postage reform of 1840. A most important work followed shortly afterwards. For some years Stephan had been examining records and documents in the Archives of the Central Office, and collecting materials from every available source, for his *History of the Prussian Post from its commencement to the Present*

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\* Bühl lies a few miles to the south of Baden-Baden, and boasts a population of 3,100. The Post Office building may be regarded as typical of those to be met with in the smaller German towns. There are eighteen officials employed at the Office and these rank as follows—One Postmeister, three Ober-Postassistenten, one Postassistent, one Posteleve, one Postgehülfe, eleven Unterbeamte.

The writer of this article is indebted to Mr. Hubert Schmidt, Ober-Postassistent, for two of the accompanying illustrations and for other valuable help.

*Time*.\* This was published in 1859, and those most qualified to judge have found in it evidence of deep research and consummate critical insight, expressed with an elegance of style too often lacking in the works of our Teutonic neighbours. The same year there appeared a technical work for the assistance of postal officials, which, under the familiar name of *Der kleine Stephan*, became popular and passed through several editions. Between 1860 and 1870 various articles from Dr. Stephan's pen on subjects connected with the postal and telegraph service were published in *Unsere Zeit* and other magazines. Two of great value, which appeared in Raumer's *Historisches Taschenbuch* (1868-9), give an account of the development of the postal service in antiquity and during the middle ages, and although written long after the history of the Prussian Post, may be regarded as a valuable introduction to that great work. Stephan's second book, *Egypt of To-day*,† was the result of a journey undertaken in 1869, and may be said to mark the close of his literary activity, for since 1870 his writings have been almost entirely official. In gaining an ideal Postmaster-General, Germany lost a powerful and picturesque writer.

Incidentally the visit to Egypt may be quoted as a striking instance of Stephan's wide outlook and catholic sympathies. The immediate cause of the journey was to witness the opening of the Suez Canal. It is very easy to believe in the Canal now, but in the sixties many people were convinced that the scheme was a visionary one. In England the belief widely obtained that it was impossible to cut the channel, impossible to finish it, impossible to prevent it silting up, and impossible to make it pay. From the first, Dr. Stephan had welcomed the idea with enthusiasm and had written in support of it. It is somewhat sad to remember that in 1865, at one of the functions given by M. de Lesseps when the great engineer invited representatives from the Chambers of Commerce of all Europe and America to witness the progress of the undertaking, only one Englishman, the late Mr. Alfred Christian, then President of the Chamber of Commerce at Malta, thought it worth his while to go.‡

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\**Die Geschichte der preussischen Post von ihrem Ursprunge bis auf die Gegenwart*. Berlin, 1859.

†*Das heutige Aegypten*. Leipzig, 1872. The delay in the publication of this book, which was written during the winter of 1869-70, is not without significance. The interval marked a period of official activity so extraordinary that all literary work, even to the correcting of proofs, had to be thrust on one side.

‡*Pall Mall Gazette*, August 15, 1895.

The literary harvest of the years under review is so admirable that one might be pardoned for thinking that officially Dr. von Stephan had been taking matters easily. As a matter of fact the literary sheaves were merely the gleanings of those hours, few and far between, which could be spared from arduous administrative labours. Of these labours, the most important were the arrangement of postal treaties with Spain and Portugal in 1864, and with Russia in 1865; the revision of the postal relationships between Prussia, Austria, and the South German States, consequent upon the war of 1866; and the abolition in 1867 of the Thurn and Taxis monopoly.\* Each required for its successful accomplishment not only a clear judgment, a wide experience, and great technical knowledge, but also the highest statesmanship and diplomatic skill. The record of Stephan's advancement proves that the Prussian Government was not slow to honour the man who brought these negotiations to a successful issue.

Two questions of considerable historical interest, the answers to which carry us back to this same period, may be dealt with here. It is claimed for Dr. von Stephan that he is the inventor of the Postcard and the originator of the Universal Postal Union. If either claim stands, mankind is greatly his debtor. Postcards have become so indispensable that nearly 2,000,000,000 are now used annually in the world's postal intercourse. What more need be said in favour of this simplest and most convenient form of communication? And what of the Universal Postal Union? Have not its results been sufficiently remarkable and momentous to justify the statement that it "has come to be regarded as one of the most august transactions of modern times?"†

Stephan is admitted on all hands to have been "the great moving power in the Postal Union,"‡ but the claim that he was its originator—a claim advanced by his admirers, not by himself—is now directly challenged, the American Post Office taking credit for priority in the inception of the idea. The last postal Report of the United States (noticed in the July number of this Magazine§) contains the following significant sentences:—

"It has been customary for many years past to attribute the conception of this Union to Dr. von Stephan, Secretary of State of the

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\* See *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, Vol. III., p. 270, and Vol. V., p. 98.

† *Report of the Postmaster-General of the United States*, p. 38. Washington, 1894.

‡ *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, Vol. III., p. 271.

§ p. 277.

department of posts of Germany, a gentleman whose character, ability, and services have been so long justly recognised and honoured in his own country that he is now known and admired all over the world. In a number of publications that have appeared in the past concerning the Union, he is represented as its founder; in the periodical journals he is from time to time so distinguished, and, as seen in the speeches delivered at the sessions of the Congresses, it is almost an established feature of the proceedings to clothe him with this honour.

"To a certain extent this attribution is true. The proposition to establish a postal convention among nations which culminated in the General Postal Union of 1874 no doubt emanated from Dr. von Stephan, and the present Universal Postal Union is unquestionably the successor of that. But long prior to 1874 the idea of a universal postal arrangement had taken form in the Post Office Department of this country, and in August, 1862, a movement was begun to carry the idea into effect."

A letter dated the 4th August, 1862, undoubtedly containing the main propositions which at a later time were to form the basis of the Union, was sent to all the countries with which the United States at that time had diplomatic intercourse. It is somewhat surprising that this letter has not been put in evidence sooner, for at first sight it appears to settle the question. Dr. von Stephan's historic memorial, in which the idea of this world-union for the furtherance of postal intercommunication was developed with considerable detail, was not handed to Prince Bismarck until six years afterwards. But the question is hardly settled yet. It is well known that the subject had occupied Stephan's mind long before his memorial was penned. Some of his earlier essays are said clearly to foreshadow the Union. Do any of these date back to 1862 or before it? Failing the essays, might not a diligent search reveal some long-forgotten article, written well within the fifties, and lying buried in the pages of an ephemeral newspaper, or thick with dust in an official pigeon-hole? Our German colleagues, eager for the honour of their great chief, may be trusted to thrash out the matter thoroughly, and mankind can await with confidence the appearance in the fulness of time of some ponderous work, the product of Teutonic genius, which, with its wealth of recondite research and profound erudition, will settle the matter for ever. Meanwhile Stephan's wise and modest words, uttered at the Vienna Congress of 1891, will satisfy the reasonable man:—

"Ideas are not originated by any individual. They float in the atmosphere for a whole epoch, at first vaguely, then in a more distinct form, until they condense and precipitate themselves in

taking body and life. The idea of unification is in harmony with the aspirations of our century; it prevails to-day in many of the domains of human activity; it constitutes the true motive power of modern civilization. As for our great machine of international exchange, it was, moreover, stimulated by this irrefutable fact, that the enormous masses which devolved upon it to handle, which increased from day to day and extended from frontier to frontier and to the farthest seas and latitudes, urgently demanded a simplification of the entire mechanism as the only means of making headway against its almost unlimited requirements and of maintaining indispensable rapidity and regularity. Such are the natural elements which were the true founders of the Universal Postal Union.”\*

The Postcard question is on a different footing. No one has yet come forward with documentary evidence dating back to 1865, the year in which Dr. von Stephan laid certain proposals in the form of a memorial before the members of the Austro-German Postal Conference at Carlsruhe. In the absence of such evidence the honour rests with Stephan. The memorial runs as follows:—†

“The form of the letter, like many other human contrivances, has in the course of time undergone numerous modifications. In antiquity the wax tablets which contained the writing were united by rings; the letter was, so to speak, a book. Then came the form of the roll, which lasted until the middle ages. Later still, the letter assumed a more convenient form and was sent folded up, and ultimately the envelope came into use. All the principal changes were gradual and passed through various transitional stages (*Uebergangsstufen*). The material used, wax, parchment, paper, influenced the form; at one time experiments were made with thin sheets of iron as writing material. But the material alone did not decide the form of the letter, which was also modified by custom, as well as by transient fashions; by business necessities as well as by the means of conveyance adopted. From these various changes the form became ever more and more simple. This is equally true of the contents, as is shown by the extreme pomposity of the earlier epistolary style, with its formal repetition of titles, etc.

“The present form of the letter does not however yet allow of sufficient simplicity and brevity for a large class of communications. It is not simple enough, because note paper has to be selected and folded, envelopes obtained and closed, and stamps affixed. It is not brief enough, because, if a letter be written, conventionality necessitates something more than the bare communication. This is irksome both to the sender and the receiver. Nowadays the telegram may

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\* Quoted from the American Report, p. 41.

† From the *Hamburger Nachrichten* of the 27th May, 1894. This memorial may be regarded as fairly representative of Dr. von Stephan's treatment of technical subjects, due allowance being made for inevitable loss of style in translation.

be said to be a kind of short letter. People sometimes telegraph in order to save the trouble of writing and sending a letter. Occasionally a visiting card is used with the same object.

"These considerations suggest the need for a contrivance somewhat of the following kind, as suitable for the present time:—

"Let there be sold at all Post Offices, and by all postmen, forms for open communications. Let such a "post-sheet" (*Post-blatt*) have the dimensions of ordinary envelopes of the larger size, and consist of stiff paper, corresponding therefore in size and quality to the recently introduced Money Orders used in some of the German Postal Districts. On the face of the card there might appear at the top the name of the district, and perhaps a small device (the arms of the country, etc.). On the left hand a space could be left for the date stamp of the receiving office, on the right the postage stamp already impressed upon the form. There would be a space for the address, as in Money Orders, with the printed words "To," "Office of Destination" (*Bestimmungsort*) and "Address of Addressee" (*Wohnung des Empfängers*), as well as the printed notice, "The reverse side may be used for written communications of any kind" (*Die Rückseite kann zu schriftlichen Mittheilungen jeder Art benutzt werden*). Both the communication and the address might be written in ink, pencil, etc., but the use of the latter might detract from the clearness and permanence of the writing, especially in the address. Such a "post-sheet" would then be ready to be forwarded through the post, the postage having been paid by the purchase of the form. The charge for postage should be fixed as low as possible, say about 1 silver groschen, irrespective of the distance the form is conveyed. Apart from the postage, no charge should be made for the form itself.

"As already proved in the case of Money Orders, the manipulation of the 'post-sheets' in the technical Postal Service would present no difficulty, on account of their uniform shape, their clear manner of address, and their being ready stamped.

"To the public the arrangement would be welcome on many occasions and for many purposes, especially when the first aversion to open communications had been overcome by a closer consideration of the matter. How very troublesome, for instance, it is at present for anyone on a journey who wishes to write to his relatives telling them of his safe arrival or asking for some article that may have been forgotten! In the future such a one would take a 'post-sheet' from his portfolio, and with a lead pencil, in the carriage or on the platform, fill it up and post it in the nearest pillar-box or railway letter-box. It is probable that in addition to its use for social purposes a large number of orders, advices, &c., in connection with business transactions, would be forwarded '*per Postblatt*.'"

The year 1870 began a new era for modern Germany. When Francis of Hapsburg resigned the Imperial dignity in 1806, and

the "Holy Roman Empire" came to an end, the bond which, in name at least, bound the Germans together, was broken, and a vast number of separate discordant states alone remained. The evil of such a condition of things was shown by the ease with which Napoleon overran Germany in 1808; and the idea of a united Germany, bound by a stronger bond than the shadowy mediæval Empire, fired many of her younger generation with enthusiasm. But the hopes of Arndt, Körner, and other bards and heroes of the "Befreiungs-Krieg" of 1813 were doomed for awhile to disappointment. Napoleon indeed was overthrown, but the old system of small bickering principalities was revived; Prussia alone exhibiting a strength which made her fit to compete with other European states, and which marked her out in due time as the leader of United Germany. Though crushed and kept under for a long time, the hope of union was never lost, and when at length the great war with France proved to all the world that underneath superficial differences there existed a real bond between the different German states, and that the Bavarian could fight side by side with the Prussian, then the leaders of Germany determined to realise the idea of union, and the crowning of William of Prussia as German Emperor consummated the aspirations of more than half a century.

The profound effect of this change upon every department of German activity is a matter of history. The Post Office in particular, controlled as it was by a man supremely fitted for the work, entered upon a period of unparalleled action and progress. Speaking of this time, the official organ of the International Postal Union\* says:—

"Scarcely had the thunder of the cannon died away when the laborious task commenced of constructing the Imperial Post, which had been founded at the same time as the Empire. It was exceedingly difficult, in a short space of time, to establish perfect uniformity of administration in a postal sphere possessing formerly a great number of separate postal administrations with a very confusion of laws, regulations, tariffs, &c. It needed just such an energetic, skilful organizer as Stephan to clear away quickly the remains of the past and prepare everywhere an open road for the introduction of the new dispositions which were henceforward to count as law throughout the whole postal domain of Germany. This vigorous activity in the interior was accompanied by equally restless exertions in regard to a uniform regulation of international relations, which until then were based on numerous separate postal treaties concluded with the different countries,"

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\* *L'Union Postale*, p. 113, July, 1895.





HIS EXCELLENCY DR. VON STEPHAN

*(Postmaster-General and Minister of State of the Imperial German Empire).*

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It is not possible in this short sketch to enter into any details of Dr. von Stephan's multitudinous labours in his capacity of General Post Director. One or two points only which appear of especial interest will be touched upon.

Not long after the close of the war, when patriotism was still at a white-heat, a vigorous crusade was commenced for the purification of the German language. The numerous foreign words so freely used at the time not only in ordinary conversation but also in official correspondence, were to be banished, and their places taken by equivalents of unimpeachable Teutonic origin. Dr. von Stephan led the attack with great enthusiasm, and as fierce opposition manifested itself in various quarters, the Fatherland was speedily plunged into a wordy civil war. Many a hotly-contested battle was fought before victory finally rested with the patriots. There are now but few alien terms in the official vocabulary, although many doubtless still linger in every-day speech. Stephan received numerous congratulations upon the result of the fight, not only from his countrymen but from English and American admirers.\* A wit sent him the following lines:—

#### IN STEPHANUM.

O Stephane, O Stephane,  
Vir magne et supine!  
Ignosce mihi candide  
Cum loquor nunc latine.

Ulixes tu inveniens  
Exaudi hunc sermonem  
Et aurem tene, oro te,  
In tuum Telephonem.

O Stephane, O Stephane,  
Interrogo acerba:  
Cur tibi magno odio  
Sunt aliena verba?

Latine quia scriptæ sunt,  
Tunc Romæ si fuisses,  
Horatii epistolas  
Tu nunquam expedisisses.†

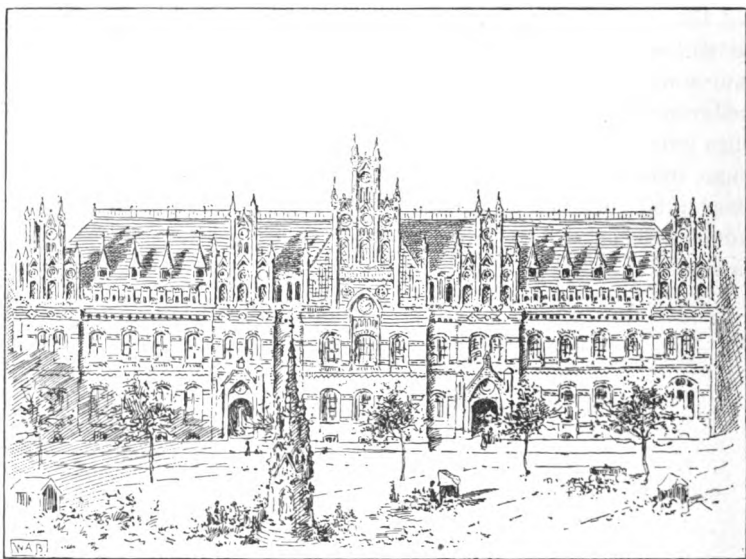
Until within the last few years it was the fate of most German officials to be located in unsightly buildings, and to work in small

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\* When we consider some of the authorised technical terms now in use (e.g., *Zeitungsüberweisungsgebühr*, *Posthalterei-Ausstattungsgegenstände*, & *Materialienverwendungsnachweisung*) the value of these congratulations appears enhanced.

† From *Unter dem Zeichen des Verkehrs*, p. 190.

unhealthy rooms. All this is now altered. The magnificence of many of the new Post and Telegraph Offices has often been commented upon. Some of the buildings are of considerable architectural beauty, and all are spacious and well-lighted. Typical offices are shown in the accompanying illustrations; the quaint design of the Lübeck office is explained by the fact that in every instance the buildings are made to reflect faithfully the prevailing style of architecture of the town in which they are situated. The *Postbauverwaltung*, a kind of magnified Buildings Branch, was created in 1875, and is invested with



LÜBECK POST OFFICE.

very considerable powers. Dr. von Stephan has supreme control of the Department, and it is no secret that he is chiefly responsible for the alterations and improvements carried out.

In reviewing the work of 25 years a few statistics are almost inevitable. In 1872 there were but 5,755 Post Offices. There are now over 30,000, and in addition nearly 20,000 extra places where postage stamps and similar articles can be bought. The number of mail trains running daily is nearly 8,000 as compared with 2,297 in 1875. The Germans are known to be great readers of books and still greater readers of newspapers. Even in 1872 the number of such

articles that passed through the post was bewildering, but the following table for that year and for 1893 shows that an extraordinary increase has taken place :—

Newspapers .....	227,000,000	821,000,000
Book-packets ( <i>Drucksachen</i> )...	54,000,000	440,000,000
Sample-packets.....	5,000,000	32,000,000
Parcels .....	35,000,000	103,000,000

#### FOREIGN MAILS.

Letters .....	87,000,000	329,000,000
Parcels .....	3,000,000	18,000,000

The postal and telegraph services were amalgamated on the 1st January, 1876, and the change at once gave a great impetus to telegraphic operations. Within a period of five years from the date of the amalgamation the number of offices had increased from 1,686 to 5,000 and now almost touches 20,000. An interesting feature of the telegraph administration is the special office (*Telegraphen-Ingenieurbureau*) in which all electrical inventions and contrivances are tested with a view to their practical application in the service. The progress between 1875 and the present time is as under :—

Miles of line (poles) .....	23,000	64,500
Miles of wire.....	84,500	234,500
Messages (inland).....	7,000,000	20,000,000
Messages (foreign).....	3,000,000	9,000,000

Dr. von Stephan took a leading part in the introduction of the telephone into Germany, and that means of communication, thanks to the low tariff and the liberal services rendered, has become very popular. In 1894, 397 towns were connected by telephone, the subscribers numbered 83,409, and the number of "talks" amounted to no less than 425,000,000. The Berlin exchange is the largest in Europe, and there are made daily in the German capital more telephonic connections than in the whole of France.\*

"Nothing is impossible with the German Postmaster-General" said the *Times* in 1885, and the words have been justified by results. Germany's postal service is to-day the synonym for efficiency the wide world over. Two of our colleagues, who during an official tour on the continent had ample opportunities of forming a correct

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\* These statistics are taken chiefly from the May, 1895, issue of *Archiv für Post und Telegraphie*, the official gazette of the German Post Office.

judgment, have put on record their conviction that "it would be difficult to deny that the service is at the present time the most complete in the world."\*

Since his appointment as General Post Director, Dr. von Stephan has had many honours conferred upon him. He became a member of the Prussian *Herrenhaus* in 1872, and although not a politician in the current party sense of the word, he proved that when the occasion demanded he could speak with convincing zeal and eloquence.† In February, 1881, he was made Secretary of State for the Post Office, in 1885 was ennobled, in 1894 was invested with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Red Eagle, and a year later, on the occasion of his 60th birthday (27th January, 1895), was created a Minister of State. By virtue of his official position he is a member both of the *Bundesrath* and the *Staatsrath*. The title of Doctor was conferred upon him by the University of Halle.

The congratulations which poured in when Dr. von Stephan reached his 60th birthday were renewed when three months later he completed a quarter of a century's service as General Post Director. On this occasion hundreds of congratulatory telegrams from all parts of the world marked the esteem and respect in which he was held. Our own Queen sent a gracious message and many other royal dignitaries remembered the day. It need hardly be said that Germany celebrated the event in a fitting manner, for his countrymen recognise that Stephan has done for the postal service what von Moltke did for the army and Bismarck for the empire.

Honours and fame have not spoilt the simplicity of life and the unassuming manners of the German Postmaster-General. He is a man who can inspire strong and lasting friendship, and his character commands universal respect. Officially, he is a strict disciplinarian and expects from his staff the enthusiasm and zeal which he himself has always displayed. He must have early taken to heart Goethe's aphorism: "*Es ist nicht genug zu wissen, man muss auch anwenden ; es ist nicht genug zu wollen, man muss auch thun.*"

We cordially echo the words of our contemporary, the *Post Archiv*: "*Gott schütze und erhalte den ersten General-Postmeister des geeinigten deutschen Reichs !*"

SHERWIN ENGALL.

Secretary's Office, G.P.O.

\* *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, Vol. III., p. 268.

† From *Deutsche-Reichs-Post*, p. 242, May, 1895.

## *Notes on the word "Imprest."*

**T**HIS word appears to be used now in certain departments of the Government of England ; and I am not aware of its use beyond such departments. Also, the word is only used as a substantive, and means the order, or authority, or advance-note by which money is paid from one person to another ; or the money itself so advanced. This is not quite the same as the older use of the word. The following sentences will show the manner of its present use :—

(a) "I enclose an Imprest for £5."

(b) "You will have to account for the Imprest recently advanced to you."

(c) "You will receive an Imprest Warrant for your expenses incurred in carrying out the orders given you." In the third of these sentences the word "Imprest" is still a substantive. The phrase "Imprest Warrant" is frequently used. The combination of these two words, and the similarity in sound between "Imprest" and "Impressed," have perhaps served to mislead. The mind is impressed with "Imprest" as if it were a participle from the verb "to impress" ; but the mind should be impressed with a better, because a truer, sense of the word "Imprest" ; and if I say "Presto !" by way of introduction of what here follows, I intimate the philological origin of "Imprest."

An "Imprest" is an advance of money, the word being more strictly used in connection with an acceptance of something offered to secure credit, it is an order for an advance of money, it is a loan, or an order for a loan, due to something given by way of pledge. A pawnbroker, for instance, might advance ten shillings on an item pledged with him ; and the word "Imprest" would be rightly used if he called that ten shillings an "imprest." Or again, a merchant might borrow from a banker £1000, and for security might hand over the papers that showed his ownership of goods "in bond" ; and the banker might say "I give you this imprest for £1000," as he handed to the merchant the order for that sum, or the sum itself in coin, and received in exchange the papers that showed right of ownership of the property. Similarly a mortgage on house property, and the money lent on the security of title deeds, would afford a true use of the word "Imprest" according to its older meaning.

But in the present day the word is much restricted in its use; and while no doubt the transitions in its meanings and practical use might be fully traced, it seems now to be used as referring to a loan or advance of money without the old conditions of something material being given or assigned by way of pledge or security for the advance. The idea of the advance of money, or of the order for such advance, seems to be the only sense now attached to the word. The use is restricted to offices and Government Departments where there is sufficient security already in the honesty of the recipient, or in the recipient's knowledge that dishonesty would entail most serious consequences to himself. The word seems to be used, also, only when the money advanced is restricted in its application and purpose to the business of the office that uses it, or even to certain portions only of that business. The material security of pledged property of any kind is no longer demanded, because no longer needed, when an "Imprest" is made by the departmental officials to a subordinate. The word is still retained, but the old concomitant condition for its use has long been forgotten.

A further change has also been made, for the word "Imprest" is now technically and conventionally restricted to certain forms and occasions connected with the advance of money; and it is used only in a very limited range of business dealings. We do not say that Tommy Atkins, when he takes from the many-ribboned sergeant "King George's Shilling" has got his "Imprest," nor do we call by the term "Imprest" the "fasten-penny,"—generally a shilling in point of fact,—of the plough-boy or the milk-maid of Lincolnshire at the annual "Statute"; but the word might fairly have been used in these cases, if custom had not forbidden, for these forms of "earnest" money.

The word "Imprest" used to exist also as a Verb, but I do not find that it is now so used. It would have been just as right to say "I imprest £100 to you" or "I imprest you with £100," as to say "You have an imprest for £100," or "I give you an imprest of £100," and it would have been as correct to say "You have been imprested with £100 by me," as to say "You have received an imprest of £100 from me."

I have little doubt that the use of the word "Imprest" as a verb has been given up owing to the fact that we mentally associate it with the similarly sounding word "Impressed." And while it thus *sounds*—not *is*—ungrammatical to use "imprest" as the present tense of a verb, it seems like a very uncouth as well as ungrammatical



expression to say "imprest" as a past tense or a past participle ; for this latter sounds very much like "impressed," and gives the idea of a reduplication of the suffix ; just as the sailor boy reports that his mate has been "drownded" ; or just as the gardener similarly speaks of the fate of the superfluous kittens or puppies. Yet "imprest" would not be incorrect.

Now for the origin of the word. I think that it was brought into England by the Bankers. The Lombards, or Longobardi or Longbeards, came from North Italy as early certainly as the reign of Richard I., that is, towards the close of the twelfth century ; and they plied their money-lending trade in London. Why they should have enjoyed safety while the money-lending Jew had such a hard time of it, during the reigns of Richard and his brother, I do not pretend to be able to say : perhaps they had to keep out of the way for a few years. However, a certain street or district in the City of London soon became the head-quarters of these Lombards ; here each of them set up his banco, or bench, or "bank" ; and sat on the seat behind his business bench or "counter" just as the petty dealers now trade in the wooden stalls or shelters built up on each market day in a country town in England. Each waited for custom ; took the pledge or security or title deed or item of property brought to him by a customer ; and handed over the amount "lent" on the strength of that security. The money-lender called this sum the "Imprest," or perhaps he paid only a part of such sum, and called that the "Imprest," accompanying the advance in either case with a formal document which gave full particulars of the transaction. Thus the amount of the advance itself, and the written and sealed document relating to it were so intimately connected together that the word "Imprest" might easily become applicable to each or to both.

The Lombards were Italians : they brought with them the special form of their business—lending money on security—and they also brought with them the technique of their trade. Hitherto merchants in England who wanted temporary loans had had to apply to each other, or to the Jews : the former course was often difficult when trade happened to be generally bad, and the latter course was hated, for reasons which are still existent in our own days. The Lombard made a legitimate, regular, and reasonable business of "advancing money on security" ; just as now-a-days the solicitor acts with title-deeds, and the pawnbroker with miscellaneous petty items. By degrees, the business of banking, or advancing money on security,

was established in England, and the Lombards, gradually gaining the distinguishing name of bankers, were lenders of money on security given; and this was in fact the "bankers' business" of their day. Till the time of Elizabeth all the business now done by mortgaging solicitors and by pawnbrokers was in the hands of the Lombards or bankers, and they advanced their "Imprest" of a large or small sum with every item of business. They brought with them from Italy the technical words and methods of their trade, their *banco* is now our "bank," their system of checks has given rise to our "check," now generally—but only in recent times and not rightly—spelt "cheque." Our modern bankers speak of their "customers," not of their "clients," because of old the word customer was plainly the only term to be used, and the old Lombards' "Imprestare," or advance of money, is our "Imprest," used now only in a limited range of business and with a slightly changed form of use.

I do not find the word "Imprest," in any form whatever, in classical Latin: therefore, it is not a classical word; but I do find "Præstare," a well-known classical word; and in low Latin, in ecclesiastical Latin and in law Latin we find the substantive "Præstatio" formed from the verb *præstare*. This verb is sometimes written "Prestare," the "æ" being often changed into "e," especially in the compounds of "Præstare." The Lombards would use debased Latin; and from "Præstare" they formed the compound "Impræstare" or "Imprestare"; and then they used this verb as a substantive also; or they formed a substantive from it by altering the termination: and thus "Imprest" has passed into our modern English vocabulary, with its special meaning derived from its origin.

I think that the word "Prest," meaning something like "Imprest," is from the same origin as "Imprest." It is a term now used for the money paid by the sheriff in his accounts with the Government Exchequer. I give another instance. "Prest-money" is the money given to an enlisted soldier. It is in no way to be understood as "Pressed" money, or money paid to a "Pressed" man; but the word "Prest" comes from the same origin as the French "Prêt," and is really the same word in a slightly different form; and "Prêt" = "ready," from the Latin *Prest* or *Præst*, which is the stem of the Infinitive form "Præstare." I recently had occasion to note the family crest and motto of a friend, now deceased, named Prest: his family motto is "Toujours Prest"; and the circumflex in the French word "Prêt" shows it to be really "Prest," from "Præstare."

"Prestation" money is the term still used for certain money paid by the archdeacons to the bishops in the English Church.

Thus "Prest" and "Imprest" come from the same root, "Præstare"; that is, from *præ* and *stare*: and one of them adopts also the prefix of a compound, namely "Im." *Præsto* means "I am at hand": the "Prest-money" is the "at-hand" money: and if we looked up the old history of "Prestation money" I think we should find that it was money paid up sharply and promptly.

Although I do not find "Imprestare" in any old classical author, or in any dictionary of Latin classical times, yet late Latin writers give us the words "Impræstatio," "Impræstans," and "Impræstabilis," not as familiar words but as words that at all events they felt themselves justified in using, though these words may be found in only isolated instances. Then, later on, the compound, "Impræstare," became more used, and gradually gained a special application of its meaning to the lending and borrowing of money.

As already stated, the word "Imprest" has somewhat changed in its mode of application, but it retains a great deal of the old idea originally attached to it; just as the "Coster-monger" of to-day is a man of extensive range and variety of petty business as compared with his original progenitor, the dealer in costards or apples. Similarly, the "Imprest" may be now the advance of money in almost any and every form, without the old limits and restrictions. Perhaps hereafter the word may mean a written order in some different and restricted sense; and then a new chapter will be added to its history. Words change; and their changes are the records of history.

For the present, the office, or room or counter where the clerk obtains his "Imprest," or where the money is handed over to him in exchange for the authority that he produces for it, ought in strictness to have over the door-way the arms of the Medici family, the head of the Lombard banking families. The Lombard bankers adopted it; the banking fraternity long used it as their business sign, and the emblem of their trade; and now it is limited in its use, in its poor modern fallen condition, to pawnbrokers' shops!

Sibsey Vicarage.

F. BESANT.

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[NOTE.—The above was written only in response to a private request for information concerning the word, and with no idea of publication. The preservation of the word in modern Italian is not referred to.—F. B.]

## *The Mirror.*

“ Ε cœlo descendit γινῶθι σεαυτὸν ”



OULD ye truly know your value, Postal Servants of to-day ?

While ye take the People's wages, mark ye what the People say.

Hath your Master imperfections? Ye yourselves are not exempt ;  
See yourselves as others see you, learn a little self-contempt.

Know ye that your work is nothing, there ye sit from ten to five,  
Lunching, dawdling, reading novels, sleeping, only half alive.

Waxing fat by over-payment, only keen to give offence,  
Slaves to wooden regulations, sworn to banish common sense.

Haters of the least improvement, still ye love the old routine,  
Zealous still to burke invention, still to botch the old machine.

Like your fathers in the thirties still ye fight against reform,  
Till the People's righteous anger sweeps you helpless down the storm.

Blind to all the march of science, blind to all the public need,  
Blinded by the tape of office, blinded by exchequer greed.

Mistress Partington was beaten, pitting mops against the sea,  
Likewise ye at length surrender, scorned and beaten even ye !

Yielding, still ye gorge your malice on this clerk-beridden land,  
Forced to grant a boon ye grant it, snatching with the other hand.

Revelling in limitations, minimizing every boon ;  
From the Permanent Official heaven save old England soon !

For the Permanent Official is a sort of bogey man,  
From an earlier age surviving, not in modern nature's plan.

Simply useless and obstructive, always stubborn, half a thief,  
Very weak, and yet resistless, domineering o'er his chief.

Such ye are, ye Civil Servants, in the British Public's eye,  
Eating up the wealth of England, parasites until ye die.

Say not that ye toil unresting, giving Cæsar what is his,  
Say not that my tale is fable, point not to the thing that is.

Plead not that your silly statesmen still have told the world in vain  
How they checked your zeal for progress, dropped the whip and  
drew the rein.

Down! for England's anger riseth, Juggernaut shall o'er you pass!  
*Drums! alarums!! and excursions!!!*

[Enter HUMBUG on an ASS]

H. S. C.

## The Revenue of the Post Office.



HE following table was prepared for the Parliamentary Committee which sat, in 1808, to consider Palmer's claim for compensation for loss of his office and of the commission promised to him by the Government on the Post Office Revenue arising from his Mail Coach scheme. The differences between the figures and those given in the tables which follow illustrate the difficulty which arises in all cases where figures prepared for different purposes are contrasted. No two tables of revenue ever quite agree. Some slight difference always is to be found in the mode of estimation :—

AN ACCOUNT OF THE GROSS AND NET PRODUCE OF THE POST OFFICE, FROM LADY DAY 1723, TO THE 5TH JANUARY, 1808.

	Gross Produce, exclusive of Franks.			Net Produce.			Average of 10 Years.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
The Year ended March 25th.	1724	178,071	16 9	96,339	7 5		1724 to 1733, £96,002 11 2
	1725	175,274	9 6	99,867	18 11		
	1726	178,065	6 11	94,812	14 8		
	1727	182,184	9 10	100,889	13 0		
	1728	183,915	3 6	104,665	7 9		
	1729	179,189	15 0	92,307	10 10		
	1730	178,817	9 11	94,790	5 7		
	1731	171,412	0 5	92,169	15 8		
	1732	176,714	4 7	92,036	11 8		
	1733	171,283	18 5	92,146	6 8		
	1734	176,334	3 1	91,701	11 0		1734 to 1743, £93,173 7 4
	1735	182,171	4 8	98,630	15 7		
	1736	188,210	11 4	97,621	9 5		
	1737	182,490	10 6	97,088	8 1		
	1738	186,578	4 1	92,664	4 8		
	1739	183,747	16 8	97,250	14 10		
	1740	194,197	5 11	90,665	3 9		
	1741	191,408	17 10	90,085	6 8		
	1742	197,721	4 2	87,584	14 2		
	1743	190,626	5 1	88,441	5 10		
	1744	194,461	8 7	85,114	9 4		1744 to 1753, £89,716 5 2
	1745	194,607	5 7	85,755	14 3		
	1746	201,460	14 4	80,890	6 11		
	1747	209,028	9 5	85,942	1 11		
	1748	217,453	17 9	78,752	8 8		
	1749	212,801	16 3	88,323	13 1		
	1750	207,490	14 8	97,397	15 7		
	1751	203,748	6 10	99,115	14 11		
	1752	207,092	3 1	97,721	17 8		
	1753	206,666	5 1	98,148	9 11		

The Year ended April 5th.	Gross Produce, exclusive of Franks.			Net Produce.			Average of 10 Years.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1754	214,300	10	6	97,365	5	1	1754 to 1763, £87,911 0 9
1755	210,663	0	7	102,015	7	4	
1756	238,455	17	9	94,242	6	2	
1757	242,478	4	0	79,849	4	11	
1758	222,075	12	0	73,729	19	6	
1759	229,879	10	9	86,095	14	8	
1760	230,146	15	1	83,493	11	3	
1761	240,497	16	0	86,689	6	0	
1762	233,722	0	9	77,795	17	2	
1763	278,999	5	10	97,833	15	10	

The Year ended April 5th.	Gross Produce, exclusive of States, Members, Newspapers, and Country Letters.			Net Produce.			Average of 10 Years.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1764	225,326	5	3	116,182	8	5	1764 to 1773, £157,247 0 7†
1765	262,496	6	11	157,571	0	11	
1766	265,427	17	8	161,943	0	10	
1767	275,230	10	0	161,944	14	6	
1768	278,253	9	0	165,783	11	2	
1769	284,914	14	5	164,760	9	1	
1770	285,050	14	6	156,062	3	1	
1771	292,782	7	3	155,543	0	1	
1772	309,997	8	6	165,503	6	10	
1773	310,126	11	9	167,176	11	4	
1774	313,032	14	6	164,077	8	4	1774 to 1784, £150,808 7 1*
1775	321,943	1	4	173,188	14	2	
1776	318,418	7	4	167,482	4	2	
1777	329,921	14	3	158,575	14	5	
1778	347,128	8	5	137,994	6	4	
1779	372,817	11	2	139,248	9	9	
1780	387,092	10	7	136,409	5	10	
1781	417,634	12	9	154,157	2	7	
1782	393,235	18	6	117,325	4	10	
1783	398,624	6	4	159,625	1	1	
†1784	420,101	1	8	196,513	16	7	1784 to 1793, £308,373 16 4
1785	463,753	8	4	261,409	18	2	
1786	471,176	8	1	285,975	15	11	
1787	474,347	9	7	278,599	14	11	
1788	509,131	15	8	296,980	12	1	
1789	514,538	4	3	318,610	5	8	
1790	533,198	1	9	331,179	18	8	
1791	575,079	3	10	355,999	6	6	
1792	585,432	10	10	366,959	19	8	
1793	627,592	19	0	391,508	15	11	

		Gross Produce, exclusive of States, Members, Newspapers, and Country Letters.			Net Produce.			Average of 10 Years.
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
The Year ended April 5th.	1794	715,608	0	0	431,980	18	1	1794 to 1803, £621,627 1 4
	1795	745,238	0	0	414,548	11	7	
	§1796	811,539	0	0	479,487	6	9	
	1797	863,624	0	0	541,883	14	11	
	1798	950,476	0	0	613,280	11	8	
	1799	1,012,731	0	0	657,388	6	5	
	1800	1,083,950	0	0	720,981	17	1	
	1801	1,144,900	0	0	755,299	17	2	
	¶1802	1,289,197	0	0	880,069	14	3	
The Year ended Jan. 5th.	**1803	994,970	0	0	721,349	15	4	
	1804	1,320,585	0	0	924,839	0	9	
	1805	1,317,842	0	0	944,382	8	4	
	††1806	1,506,841	0	0	1,066,397	19	10	
	††1807	1,568,106	0	0	1,129,285	7	4	
	1808	1,552,037	0	0	1,100,606	0	0	

No accurate account could be obtained of the Post Office Revenue previous to the year 1723. It appears on each ten years' average, as above stated, that the amount had gradually decreased from that period to the years 1764 and 1765, when the increased Revenue beyond the preceding years arose from Members of Parliament being obliged to write the whole superscription of their Franks, instead of merely subscribing their names, as was the custom previous to this time; and likewise from the Farm of the Cross Posts, with its increased Revenue, during 42 years (the period it was held by Mr. Allen), having fallen into the hands of Government in consequence of his decease.

The ten years' average from this period to 1773 increased in consequence to †£157,247 os. 7d.: but in the following ten years to 1783, and previous to the commencement of Mr. Palmer's plan, it will be seen that it had again decreased to the average of \*£150,000. On the increased Net Revenue, which might in future arise beyond this sum, Mr. Palmer, by his agreement with Government, was to have 24 per cent. for his life, if he carried his plan successfully into execution, which commenced in the following year, and on which the additional rates of postage were grounded and justified by the Minister, from time to time, on account of its great accommodation and advantages to the public.

The astonishing rapid increase of the Revenue, in consequence, is evident: for previous to his plan, in the progress of near two centuries by restrictions in franking, the original and increased rates of postage, and from every improvement that could be devised, the highest net revenue it could be brought to during this long period was on the last average £150,000 per year only; whereas, from the commencement of Mr. Palmer's plan, in the course of 23 years only, there is an additional increase of net revenue of One Million per annum; and during this period the mails have been conveyed above Seventy Millions of miles, together with passengers and their property, with perfect security—not one robbery having been committed on them.

† 1784.—Mr. Palmer's plan commenced on the 2nd of August in this year.

§ 1796.—Restriction of franking from 5th May, 1795, 35 Geo. III, estimated to produce £35,000.

|| 1798.—Additional rates of postage from 5th January, 1797, 37 Geo. III., estimated to produce £160,000.



## POST OFFICE PAYMENTS TO THE EXCHEQUER.

The following table gives the amounts of the payments into the Exchequer from the Post Office between 1688 and 1799. The figures have been taken from the general Exchequer accounts for those years. The sums named represent the net revenue of the Post Office after deducting all working expenses, and also probably the pensions which were payable out of Post Office funds to certain noble persons. It was not until 1854 that the present system was introduced, under which the gross revenue is paid into the Exchequer and the money required for the cost of the service is voted by Parliament:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1688 to 1691	162,843	1717	90,677	1743	96,961
1692	57,314	1718	94,747	1744	85,936
1693	63,517	1719	98,276	1745	84,925
1694	59,972	1720	95,046	1746	63,670
1695	63,620	1721	94,964	1747	81,575
1696	75,940	1722	90,037	1748	77,973
1697	58,672	1723	93,322	1749	96,169
1698	62,662	1724	90,277	1750	93,341
1699	75,133	1725	98,683	1751	105,730
1700	77,384	1726	95,123	1752	98,037
1701	75,258	1727	100,055	1753	99,660
1702	79,150	1728	90,553	1754	100,310
1703	66,271	1729	100,199	1755	99,610
1704	66,420	1730	92,461	1756	85,610
1705	59,944	1731	95,432	1757	73,670
1706	61,217	1732	89,846	1758	81,161
1707	56,967	1733	95,782	1759	84,110
1708	56,951	1734	93,456	1760	87,310
1709	56,159	1735	98,284	1761	66,734
1710	62,093	1736	91,100	1762	98,796
1711	66,274	1737	96,600	1763	102,728
1712	92,261	1738	94,805	1764	122,295
1713	92,245	1739	95,734	1765	165,100
1714	87,305	1740	89,078	1766	157,100
1715	95,263	1741	87,375	1767	160,100
1716	88,425	1742	78,246	1768	165,100

¶ 1802.—Additional rates of postage from 5th April, 1801, 41 Geo. III., estimated to produce £140,000.

\*\* 1803.—Three quarters ended 5th January. By 42 Geo. III., the public accounts were made to terminate on the 5th January in each year, instead of the 5th April as heretofore, for which reason only *three quarters* are here stated.

†† 1806.—Additional rates of postage from 12th March, 1805, 45 Geo. III., estimated to produce £200,000.

‡‡ Part estimated for want of accounts.

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1769	161,850	1780	135,600	1791	338,200
1770	162,300	1781	141,600	1792	378,499
1771	153,600	1782	144,300	1793	409,010
1772	151,600	1783	165,600	1794	471,200
1773	166,718	1784	200,600	1795	441,229
1774	160,600	1785	304,350	1796	483,200
1775	176,600	1786	262,200	1797	558,200
1776	172,300	1787	261,525	1798	677,200
1777	151,600	1788	330,200	1799	704,200
1778	138,600	1789	321,200		
1779	132,600	1790	366,200		

GROSS AND NET REVENUE OF THE POST OFFICE, AND EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT, FROM 1800 TO 1836.

The following table was prepared when the introduction of the Penny Post was under consideration. It gives the gross and net revenue of the Post Office from 1800 to 1836, together with the expenses of management. The figures given below are those for the years named. In the first table, prepared for Palmer's Committee, the same figures are given, but as for the years ended on the 5th January in the succeeding years. This produces an apparent discrepancy for the years covered by both tables. The notes attached to the table are not very intelligible, but they apparently mean that the net revenue stated is greater than the sum paid to the Exchequer by the amounts described. The amounts of gross and net revenue for later years are given in the various reports of the Postmaster-General. The first report, published in 1854, gave a retrospect taking in the Penny Post Era.

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Charges of Management.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£
1800	1,144,900	350,219	755,299
1801	1,289,197	365,657	880,069
1802	994,970	240,550	721,349
1803	1,320,585	352,844	924,839
1804	1,347,842	356,699	944,382
1805	1,501,841	381,814	1,066,398
1806	1,568,330	385,306	1,126,743
1807	1,553,231	394,808	1,099,876
1808	1,559,345	407,957	1,091,923

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Charges of Management.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£
1809	1,675,076	426,016	1,190,216
1810	1,791,873	445,513	1,287,359
1811	1,770,547	438,327	1,272,490
1812	1,883,421	481,430	1,339,481
1813	2,005,987	519,504	1,418,951
1814	2,159,867	575,667	1,507,104
1815	2,193,741	594,045	1,526,527
1816	2,067,940	543,888	1,415,712
1817	1,983,165	561,499	1,353,601
1818	2,043,043	585,688	1,387,407
1819	1,993,885	481,571	1,448,023
1820	1,980,364	502,568	1,400,588
1821	1,935,845	544,159	1,325,277
1822	1,942,902	526,439	1,355,106
1823	1,965,468	500,675	1,400,080
1824	2,055,636	529,801	1,459,118
1825	2,160,390	542,951	1,538,629
1826	2,184,514	610,871	1,499,569
1827	2,062,179	607,681	1,384,768
1828	2,048,402	566,385	1,417,405
1829	2,024,418	579,175	1,380,239
1830	2,053,720	594,349	1,387,862
1831	2,064,334	574,578	1,414,716
1832	2,034,603	557,314	1,396,284
1833	2,062,830	552,735	1,426,499
1834	2,079,508	611,511	1,382,554
1835	2,107,676	582,509	1,440,839
1836	2,206,736	609,220	1,511,026

NOTE.—The Dead and Returned Letters are not stated, not fairly forming a part of "Charges of Management." Nor are the Parliamentary grants to their Graces of Grafton, Marlborough, and the heirs of the Duke of Schomberg (£9,932 10s. per annum). Nor the payments for improvement of the Holyhead and Milford Roads (about £7,000 per annum). These two items being, in fact, an appropriation of the net revenue. For example, the last year was 1836.

GROSS.	MANAGEMENT.	GRANTS, &C.	RETURNS.
£2,206,736	£609,220	£16,971	£86,490

The notes attached to the above tables are given in the originals.

It should be borne in mind that considerable sums were paid every year as fees to officers of the Post Office, and formed a recognized part of their emoluments. These payments tended to reduce the nominal amounts of both the Revenue and the Expenditure.

The Commissioners of Revenue Inquiry said, in 1829 (18th report, p. 8)—“A portion of the remuneration of many of the officers being derived from payments made, not out of the Revenue, but by the Public . . . those accounts do not show the real amount of the expense of conducting the services.” The Commissioners estimated these receipts (not charged on the Revenue) in England alone to amount in 1829 to not less than £39,000 per annum.

A. M. OGILVIE.



POST OFFICE, BROKEN HILL, N.S.W.

## *Round and About the Scilly Islands.*

### PART II.

**T**HE climate of Scilly is the most equable and enjoyable to be found anywhere in the whole range of the British Isles. Kent, the so-called Garden of England, is not in it. True, hops are not cultivated, and cherries and nuts are at a premium; but what avails it, if for six months out of the twelve one is scourged by an east wind which dries up the very marrow in one's bones, or smothered in a damp, sticky fog, which would take the stiffening out of an Egyptian mummy. Warmed by the current of the Gulf Stream, and fanned by the cool Atlantic breezes which sweep across it on every side, Scilly is in that favourite climatic zone where extremes never occur: it is never too hot in summer, and in winter frost and snow are practically unknown. The vegetation on the islands bears witness to this. The sweet-scented verbena, the fuchsia, and the myrtle grow into trees, and are planted out in the hedgerows. Geraniums take the place of thorns for fences, and stretch, a blaze of scarlet, across the fields. The escalonia, with its glossy-green foliage and beautiful pendent blossoms, and numerous varieties of the veronica, serve for wind screens to protect the crops. Palms and dracænas wave their feathery heads; aloes throw up their solitary flower-stalk, laden with perfume, twenty or thirty feet high; while the Australian gum tree, the West Indian sugar cane, the bamboo, and other tropical and semi-tropical plants grow in the open without any protection whatever. The cactus, and endless varieties of the fleshy mesembryanthemum grow positively wild to the water's edge. New Zealand ferns, with fronds like wind-sails, luxuriate in the even temperature, and rare lichens and mosses clothe the rocks in perpetual verdure. As for the tints of the sea, and the colour of the sands, no artist could do justice to them. The water is so clear, that fish can be seen disporting themselves fathoms deep, and the cormorant or "shag," diving after his prey, leaves a phosphorescent trail behind him.

With the climatic advantages possessed by this Western Arcadia, it would be strange, indeed, if a practical people like the Scillonians did not turn them to some profitable account. They do. They reck not of agricultural depression, nor plans of campaign; corn may be 22s. 6d. a quarter, and beef 50s. a cwt.; County Councils may bluster, and School Boards may rave; entirely oblivious of Income Tax Commissioners, and strangers to Schedule D., the Scillonians have the best of Home Rule—the rule of a resident landlord who knows their needs and requirements, and is always ready to meet them in a fair and liberal spirit. There are no leases, but there is a sort of unwritten law that tenancies should descend from father to son, and this compact is seldom or ever broken. Many estates have been in the same family from time immemorial.

The entire area of the islands is 3,600 acres, but of this about 200 acres are barren rocks, or small islets given over to rabbits and, perhaps, a few sheep. They are also the home and breeding place of innumerable flocks of sea-birds, many of them being of a species rare in these northern latitudes. One island of about an acre—a mere half-tide rock, in fact—is called Scilly Island, from which the archipelago is said to derive its name. Rosevear, one of the western islands, was used as a base for building the celebrated Bishop Rock lighthouse, and Round Island, a high conical rock to the northward, has recently been utilised for the erection of another lighthouse.

The principal islands are St. Mary's, Tresco, St. Agnes, St. Martin's, and Bryher, with a population of 3,000, somewhat unequally distributed, St. Mary's being credited with 1,300, down to 100 on Bryher. We maintain post offices on each of these islands, and it may be pretty safely asserted that Bryher, with a surface of 268 acres—mostly rocks and downs—and a population of 100 souls all told, is the smallest self-contained community in existence having a post office all to itself. At any rate, I doubt if any further extensions or facilities are feasible, unless an office be opened on the Wolf and the collections made by passing steamers.

The land under cultivation—relatively only a small proportion of the whole—is cut up into holdings averaging less than thirty acres apiece. Upon this, a Scilly farmer will rear a large family, live like a fighting cock, and put aside a good fat stocking for a rainy day. Unfortunately, he occasionally illustrates the adage that it is more difficult to keep than to get. Lured by the prospect of big dividends, and the promises of Foreign Governments to pay a rate of interest far above the sweet simplicity of the funds, many a Scilly magnate

has come to grief, and learnt wisdom in the school of adversity. Still, man for man, there are very few communities so well off in this world's goods as the Scillonians, measuring their means by their necessities. Rents are low ; taxes there are none ; with the sea for his larder, bracken for fuel, seaweed for manure, and an occasional "hobble" which a kind providence sends in his way, times must be very hard indeed which do not enable a Scillonian to keep the wolf from the door.

For very many years that esculent tuber, the potato, was almost the sole article of export. Planted, according to our ideas, in mid-winter, and coming to maturity long before the frosts of the Midlands allowed the plant to show its nose above the ground, the Scillonians gathered a golden harvest, frequently getting back 5d. or 6d. a lb. for the earlier part of the crop. Thanks, however, to a one-sided free trade which gives all and receives nothing in return, and to a grinding railway monopoly which enables produce to be brought from Spain and Portugal cheaper than it can be carried from Scilly to London, the glory of the potato has departed, and high prices are a thing of the past. Being thus, from causes beyond their control, threatened with the extinction of their principal industry, the Scilly farmers had to cast about for some other mode of cultivation, suitable to the soil and climate, which could be profitably conducted. That Heaven helps those who help themselves was never more strikingly exemplified. Growing almost wild and untended in the gardens at Rocky Hill and Holy Vale, and in front of nearly every cottage, was a species of narcissus known as "Scilly whites." It seems indigenous to the sandy soil, and coming into flower very early in the spring, blooms right away through the summer. That this neglected and despised bulb should be the means of regenerating the islands in a commercial sense, never entered into the dreams of my good old friends the Trevellicks, the Mumfords, the Banfields, and the Edwardses, who, rising early, going to bed late, and eating the bread of carefulness, have tilled the soil from one generation to another. Yet so it is. Instead of a clump here and there, planted where nothing else would grow, in the shade of the orchard, or the shadow of some rock, Scilly whites now occupy the warmest slopes and the most sheltered nooks ; patch has been added to patch, and acre to acre, till nearly the whole arable surface of the islands is covered with them. Not only so, but a spirit of emulation, fostered and encouraged by Mr. Dorrien Smith, himself a large cultivator, has sprung up among the growers ; new sorts have

been introduced, new varieties tried, till at this moment I believe there are over two hundred sorts of the narcissus under culture.

The first sight of a Scilly bulb garden impresses the stranger with the incongruities of meteorological phenomena, and destroys his faith in latitude and longitude. He is suddenly transported from Wick to the Azores. Coming probably from the north of England or the Midlands, still ice-bound and wintry, he finds himself basking under summer skies, the lark singing overhead, wild hyacinths carpeting the ground under his feet, and the perfume of thousands of narcissi and jonquils wafted up to him on the soft and balmy air. For the cultivation of these bulbs the land is parcelled out into small enclosures formed by hedges of euonymus, escalonia, and veronica, and within these enclosures, in long narrow beds two or three inches apart, the bulbs are planted. The beds are renewed every third year when the crop of bulbs is gathered. If the season be at all favourable, the plants break the ground soon after Christmas, and as soon as the flower-bud is well forward, they are cut off with the stems attached, tied in bundles of twelve, and plunged into shallow tanks of tepid water for a day or two for the flowers to develop. They are then packed in light wicker baskets for the market. The present extent of the trade may be estimated when I say that, when the season is in full swing, from fifteen to twenty tons of flowers will be despatched at a single consignment, one grower alone contributing 20,000 to 30,000 blooms. It would not do to tell the secrets of the trade, but it may be noted as an object lesson to struggling agriculturists, and as showing the benefits of special cultivation—I believe the G.O.M. advocates fruit—that from a plot of ground little bigger than a labourer's allotment, the returns will sometimes represent three figures in pounds. Nor, from a Departmental point of view, is the trade to be despised. The love of flowers permeates all classes of society. From the mansion of the rich down to the humblest cottage, floral decoration and floral display amount almost to a craze. Hence, the demand for these naturally-grown sweet-scented narcissi is an increasing one, and coming at a time when nothing but sickly, high-priced, hot-house flowers are obtainable, promises to have a very marked effect on the business of the islands. Even now it sends up the letter count fifty per cent., and more than quadruples the output of parcels, special baskets being made up for Leicester Square (for Covent Garden), Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, and other large towns in the north. It is true the place cannot well be used by anyone as an



argument in favour of universal penny postage. Every letter costs the Post Office about 5d. ; while as for parcels, after deducting the ruinous share demanded by the railways, and the subsidy paid to the steam-ship company, their conveyance at all can only be defended on the principle adopted by the baker who, in selling penny loaves at three-farthings apiece, explained that it was the quantity that paid. Strange to say, though the Channel swarms with fish from sprats to conger, fishing is not one of the Scilly industries. The only fish to be had, as a rule, is the vapid, watery, bony whiting, and the still more despised chad, or "chuck cheeld." The Mount's Bay mackerel fleet fishes off Scilly for about two months out of the twelve, and smacks from the eastward take away a few crabs, lobsters, and crays ; but beyond this, no one thinks of utilising the advantages of Scilly as a fishing station.


The only other calling the Scillonians can be said to have, may be described in the language of Mr. Micawber :—they are waiting for something to turn up. The annual wreck chart tells a sad tale of the fatalities in the neighbourhood of the Scillies, and "hobbles," of a more or less remunerative character, occur with wonderful regularity. Not that I wish it to be inferred that the Scilly folks are wreckers in any sense of the term. A braver lot of boatmen never handled an oar, and many, many a time have they risked their lives in the cause of humanity. But, by some strange anomaly, while a bale of goods has a money value, and is paid for by the Board of Trade up to two-thirds of the amount realised on the sale of it, no salvage whatever is allowed for the human chattel, which may sink or swim as fate decrees. To the credit of the Scillonians be it said that often—and notably in the case of the "Schiller"—when self interest would have prompted them to recover the inanimate flotsam, they have nobly gone to the rescue of the worthless human waif, clinging for dear life to some frail plank, or hanging on to an almost inaccessible rock which could only be reached by the exercise of the greatest skill and bravery. But, after all, the Scilly boatmen are but weak mortals like ourselves, and one must have regard for the loaves and fishes sometimes. A story is told how, one Sunday morning, in the middle of Divine service, an excited boatman put his head into the church porch, and bawled out, "A wreck!" The words ran through the congregation like an electric shock, and springing to their feet as one man they exclaimed, "The Lord be praised! Where is she?" "Porcessor," says the boatman. During this brief colloquy, the parson had fully grasped the

situation, and, determined not to be "left," closed the book with a hurried "And now to God the Father," &c., and clearing the pulpit steps at a bound said, "Now, my dear friends, wait till I take off my gown; let us all start fair." No time was lost in crossing the spit of land which separates the church from Porthcressa, and there, sure enough, was a vessel bottom up, drifting towards the shore. There were no signs of the crew, and as no boat could live in such a sea, the spectators arrived at the usual conclusion—all gone, poor fellows. By-and-bye, as the tide receded, the vessel, which turned out to be a French lugger, was left high and dry, and our Scilly friends, sniffing salvage in every plank, began to speculate as to the nature of the find. Was she laden with wine? Was it fruit, or, worst of all luck, pitwood? To solve the doubt, augers and saws were produced, and in less time than it takes to tell the tale a hole big enough to take a man's arm was made in the bilge. Proceeding to explore the cargo through this aperture, one of the would-be salvors passed in his hand, and, to his horror, it was grasped by something living, and a faint sound of voices was heard within the shell of the ship. Here was a pretty go. The next tide would again submerge the wreck, and no warm-blooded animal could survive. Well, to cut a long and perfectly true story short, the hole was enlarged, and ultimately the entire crew were rescued. When the ship "turned turtle," the compressed air prevented the water from rising, and in this miraculous diving-bell the men were safe as long as the pent-up air sufficed to sustain life. What would have happened if the islanders—albeit with a somewhat mercenary motive—had refused to do good on the Sabbath day, it is not the purpose of the present narrator to discuss.

Maidstone.

J. G. UREN.

## *Postmaster-General and Poet.*

MONGST Postmasters-General who have been poets we should, of course, include the Duke of Argyll and Lord John Manners, now Duke of Rutland. But few of us, I imagine, had any idea during his term of office that Mr. Raikes was to be included in this category. We all knew that he was a very distinguished scholar, and that he represented his university in Parliament; but the circumstances of his official life rather pointed away from a cultivation of the muses, and fact rather than fancy was the predominant feature of his character, so far as it was publicly disclosed. Yet, for many years—for more than thirty at all events—he was in the habit of scribbling verses on the backs of old envelopes, and on odd sheets of paper, “sometimes traced in faint pencil characters, . . . and frequently rendered almost illegible by alterations and interlineations.” This we learn from the preface to a dainty volume containing a selection from the poems, translations and occasional pieces of Mr. Raikes, recently printed for private circulation, of which I have been fortunate enough to secure a copy. The volume is edited by Mr. Henry St. John Raikes, who modestly says that “if the book serves no other purpose, it may give to those who regard Mr. Raikes’s career from the political standpoint only, some insight into the culture of his mind which made him such a delightful companion to those with whom he was on terms of intimacy.” Mr. Raikes, it appears, wrote many pieces which are not included in this selection, and the editor regrets that, in the case not only of many of those omitted, but also of a few contained in these pages, the final polishing touches, which lend such finish to many of the sets of verses, should have been omitted. The selection is variously made up, some of the verses being grave, others gay, some even humorous, and one or two devotional. One of the

earliest is entitled a "Parody on Bonnie Dundee," which was published anonymously in *Punch* in December, 1862, and was evoked by the vigour and strength with which the late Lord Bramwell put down the epidemic of garotting from which London suffered in that year. Mark Lemon was then editor of *Punch*, and the verses were generally attributed to Tom Taylor, although Lord Bramwell, who had a copy of them which he showed to his friends with great delight, probably knew better. Here are the verses, which are well worth quotation in full:—

"PARODY ON 'BONNIE DUNDEE.'"

- In the court of Old Bailey 'twas Bramwell that spoke :  
 'The Crown can't allow all these crowns to be broke,  
 So let each skulking thief who funks justice and me,  
 Just attend to the warning of bold Baron B.  
 'Just hand me my notes and some ink for my pen,  
 And, gaoler, look sharp and bring up all your men,  
 Under five years of servitude none shall go free,  
 For its up with the dander of bold Baron B.
- 'There are isles beyond Portland, more depôts than Cork,  
 Where such ruffians shall go if there's more of this work,  
 There's a cat whose tails number some three times tails three,  
 You'll cry Ho ! when you feel it, and bless Baron B.  
 'Just hand me my notes, &c.
- 'Be off to the quarries, the forts, and the docks,  
 If I spare a garotter I'll stand in the stocks ;  
 Yes, tremble, you scoundrels, you thought it a spree,  
 But you didn't expect, then, to face Baron B.  
 'Just hand me my notes, &c.'
- There were ticket-of-leavers, with crowbars who tried,  
 And thick knuckle-dusters, to cause homicide,  
 But they shook in their shoes, as was pleasing to see,  
 Beneath the stern accents of stout Baron B.  
 'Just hand me my notes, &c.'
- He turned as he spoke to the hands of the clock,  
 And then, with a scowl on the roughs in the dock,  
 'The time's getting on, but I've words two or three  
 For your friends out of doors from your friend Baron B.  
 'Just hand me my notes, &c.

‘ If one man dogs another as homeward he goes,  
 And masters his purse by the aid of some blows,  
 That man before long shall have audience of me,  
 And I’ll do my best for him,’ quoth bold Baron B.  
 He has got at his notes, and some ink in his pen,  
 Mr. Jonas before him has ranged all his men,  
 ‘ For life, ten years, five ; none with less shall go free,’  
 More strength to your elbow, say we, Baron B.”

From this spirited effusion, we come to some lines on Pope which are also well worth quoting :—

“ Come then, my friend, my genius, come along,  
 Oh, master of the poet and the song !  
 And, while the Muse now stoops, and now descends  
 To man’s low passions, and their glorious ends,  
 Teach me like thee, in various nature wise,  
 To fall with dignity, with temper rise ;  
 Formed by thy converse happily to steer  
 From grave to gay, from lively to severe,  
 Correct with spirit, eloquent with ease,  
 Intent to reason, or polite to please.  
 Oh ! while along the stream of Time, thy name  
 Expanded flies and gathers all its fame,  
 Say, shall my little bark attendant sail,  
 Pursue the triumph and partake the gale ?  
 When statesmen, heroes, kings, in dust repose,  
 Whose sons shall blush their fathers were thy foes,  
 Shall, then, this verse to future age pretend  
 Thou wast my guide, philosopher, and friend ? ”

Other lines which take my fancy—probably because the scenes described are familiar to me—are “ The Greeting,” when Drummond of Hawthornden welcomed “ Rare Ben Jonson ” to his “ Social Shade ” ; and, “ The Lass he bore awa’,” where the “ Pass o’ Balmaha,” “ Rowardennan’s Braes,” and “ Ben Lomond’s Crag,” all in the Rob Roy Country, are sung most tunefully. Amongst the more tender pieces may be mentioned : “ Farewell, my Home,” “ Dear little girl of Gimingham,” “ To my fur-coat,” and, “ In Memoriam L. C. R.” ; while, a “ Hymn for Easter Even ” and translations into the Latin of “ A few more years shall roll,” “ Abide with Me,” and “ Brightest and best,” testify to the devotional bias of the writer’s mind. It strikes me that a perusal of this volume will be

a kind of revelation to Post Office men, who only knew Mr. Raikes in his official capacity. It has been a revelation to me, although I had on one occasion a brief glimpse of Mr. Raikes at his best, only a few months before his lamented death. He was addressing the members of a literary institute at Hyde, in Cheshire, and made an indirect, but singularly happy, allusion to my two idols in literature, Scott and Macaulay. The next morning he very kindly called on me at the Post Office in Manchester, when, after expressing the pleasure his address had given me, I ventured to trot out a favourite proposition of mine, which I never lose an opportunity of enforcing, viz.: that Scott is a really great poet, and that it is only his greater genius as a prose writer which overshadows that fact. Or, as Andrew Lang tersely puts it in his introduction to the Dryburgh edition of the poems: "No doubt Scott's prose has been the most potent rival of his rhyme." I forget whether I clenched my proposition, as I almost invariably do, by repeating the immortal lines:—

"Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife,  
To all the sensual world proclaim—  
One crowded hour of glorious life  
Is worth an age without a name."

At all events, Mr. Raikes fell very readily in with my view, and discussed the subject with me in the most hearty and agreeable manner. I retain the most pleasing recollection of that visit—a pleasure which has been considerably enhanced by the perusal of a volume which leaves no doubt in my mind that Mr. Raikes was not only a man of the highest culture, but of a warm and tender heart.

R. W. J.

## *Two Post Office Sites.*

**B**EFORE London was built and the earliest attempt had been made to keep the Thames within due limits, the water at high tide must have flowed over what is now dry and firm land. On the southern side of the river there was nothing for a long distance inland to check the advance of the tide, but between the Fleet River and the site of the Tower of London a line of low cliff, broken only by the Walbrook which fell into the Thames near where Southwark Bridge stands, checked the incoming water and formed a natural bulwark behind which the first inhabitants of London, whether British or Roman, built their houses. The cliff has long since disappeared, but its crest may easily be traced along Knightrider Street, Cannon Street, and further eastward. The Post Office Savings Bank in Queen Victoria Street stands on what was, ages ago, the face of the cliff, and the newer building in Knightrider Street now in course of completion is on the summit. Both buildings are in Castle Baynard Ward, but in different parishes; the older in St. Peter's by Paul's wharf, the church of which is now used by a Welsh congregation, and the newer in the churchless parish of St. Gregory by St. Paul. Baynard, who gave his name to the ward, came over with William the Conqueror and built the castle on the Thames, which was forfeited by his grandson, William, in the year 1111, and granted by Henry I. to Robert of Clare, in whose family, the Fitz Walters, it remained until the Wars of the Roses. The castle was then held for a few years by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who rebuilt it. On his death and

attainder it reverted to King Henry VI., and shortly afterwards it came into the possession of Richard Duke of York, whose two sons Edward IV. and Richard III. ascended the throne while living at Baynard's Castle. Shakespeare has told the story of Richard's appearance there, standing prayer book in hand between two bishops, "props of virtue for a Christian prince," and pretending to refuse what he was really so anxious to obtain. Henry VII. converted the castle into "a beautiful and commodious house," and the last important historical event connected with the place was the meeting of the Council in 1553, to assert the title of Princess Mary to the throne, in opposition to the claims of Lady Jane Grey, who had been proclaimed queen a few days earlier. The castle in Stow's day belonged to the Earl of Pembroke. It was destroyed by the great fire and was never rebuilt.

The site of Castle Baynard is, however, at some little distance from the buildings of the Post Office Savings Bank. Close at hand Wardrobe Court, a quaint little square between Wardrobe Terrace and Carter Lane, occupies the site of the King's Wardrobe, built by Sir John Beauchamp, Warden of the Cinque Ports, and bought from his executors by Edward III., who devoted it to the purpose indicated by its name. Here were kept the state robes of the sovereign, a quantity of armour, some of which is now at the Tower, and a large collection of state papers. In Stow's day the keeper of the wardrobe was Sir John Fortescue, cousin of Queen Elizabeth on her mother's side, and grandnephew of the better known Sir John Fortescue, Chief Justice, and author of the famous treatise "*De Laudibus legum Anglie*." Queen Elizabeth's keeper had at one time been Chancellor of the Exchequer. During his residence at the Wardrobe he was often called upon, much to his annoyance, to receive state prisoners. He remonstrated in vain against the odious office, alleging that the house was not suited for a prison, and that he had no means of providing for the safe custody of the persons committed to his charge. The Wardrobe was destroyed at the great fire and the site passed into private hands.

The construction of Queen Victoria Street, thirty years ago, effected so many changes and effaced so many landmarks, that it is not easy to ascertain the precise limits of the College of Doctors of Civil Law, commonly known as Doctors' Commons. This College was established in Elizabeth's reign in a house belonging to St. Paul's Cathedral, at the corner of Bennet's Hill and Knighttrider Street, which had previously been in the occupation of the Blunts,



Lords Mountjoy. After the great fire it was rebuilt in brick, and consisted of two quadrangles, a hall, a refectory, besides other buildings and a garden. I have mentioned the difficulty of determining the precise boundaries of the College, but I think, on comparing several plans which are not in agreement with one another, that the east end of the Savings Bank buildings in Queen Victoria Street covers the site of the College garden, and it is not impossible that the refectory of the Savings Bank clerks, now at 140, Queen Victoria Street, occupies the same position as the refectory of the College. Readers of the *Pickwick Papers* and of *David Copperfield* will remember how much Dickens has to tell about Doctors' Commons, of the ticket porters at the now destroyed archway in St. Paul's Churchyard, who touted for licenses and decoyed Mr. Weller, senior, into matrimony; of the time Copperfield passed in the office of those eminent proctors, Messrs. Spenlow and Jorkins, and of Spenlow's solemn dictum "Touch the Commons and down comes the country." In those days five courts held their sittings in the College Hall; the Arches, the Court of Faculties, and the Prerogative Court, all under the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Consistory Court of the Bishop of London; and the High Court of Admiralty. There ill-assorted married couples obtained judicial separations, or took the preliminary steps for absolute divorce; wills were proved in solemn form; collisions at sea were adjudicated upon; clergymen who led evil lives or held heretical doctrines were suspended or otherwise punished; and there too the unfortunate baker who objected to a paving rate was excommunicated for six weeks, and sentenced in no end of costs in a cause in which Messrs. Spenlow and Jorkins were proctors for the promoter of the suit. The case of the baker does not seem to have been further reported, and we are not told whether he appealed from the decision of the Consistory Court as he might have done. For appeals were multiplied even when the matter in dispute was most trivial. There was a case mentioned by Dr. Nicholls, a distinguished member of the College, when speaking in the House of Commons on a bill to do away with some of the abuses prevalent in Ecclesiastical Courts, which had originally begun in the Court of the Archdeacon of Totnes, and had been carried to the Courts of the Bishop of Exeter, the Arches, and the Delegates; the question at issue being which of two persons had the right of hanging his hat on a particular peg. The Ecclesiastical Courts were reformed by Lord Brougham, the Probate and Divorce Court was established in 1857, and these

changes put an end to many of the law's delays and abuses. Doctors' Commons was abolished, but Mr. Spenlow's prophecy still waits fulfilment. There are, however, some persons who hold that, as regards the facilities for divorce, the former state of affairs was better than the present, and it is interesting to notice that a most strenuous champion of the indissolubility of marriage is an old Savings Bank man, Mr. O. D. Watkins, now a chaplain in India, who has recently published a very full, able and learned treatise on the subject. In 1861 the College Library was sold, and the buildings were disposed of in the following year, though they did not wholly disappear until 1867. A large part of the site is now occupied by the Civil Service Supply Association, another has been thrown into Queen Victoria Street, and, if I am not mistaken, the Post Office Savings Bank buildings covers the garden of the old College. These premises were opened for business on August 3rd, 1880, the sanction of the Treasury for their erection having been obtained in 1877. The site cost £70,000; the buildings, designed by Mr. Williams, of the Office of Works, and erected by Messrs. Brass, cost £43,000. In the course of a few years they were quite insufficient for the accommodation of the staff, and an additional site was obtained on the north side of Knightrider Street.

The newer buildings for the Savings Bank will, when completed, form a quadrangle, having Carter Lane, Bell Yard, Knightrider Street, and Addle Hill on the north, east, south, and west sides respectively, and will cover the sites of three inns of some notoriety and of the first College of Physicians in London. This College was founded in 1518, by Henry VIII., at the request of Wolsey, who, as Chancellor, affixed the great seal to the letters patent. The first president was Thomas Linacre, a native of Canterbury, who had studied medicine in Italy and obtained a doctor's degree at the University of Padua. Before visiting Italy he had been tutor to Prince Arthur, and shortly after his return was appointed physician to Henry VIII., and some years later tutor to Princess Mary, afterwards Queen. In 1509, the date of his appointment as king's physician, he received deacon's orders and, although he did not become a priest until 1520, he was presented to several livings in the interval, and to the precentorship of York Cathedral on the nomination of his friend Archbishop Wolsey. He had previously enjoyed the friendship of the other English Archbishop, William Warham, and it was on the joint invitation of Linacre, Latimer, Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Colet, Dean of St. Paul's and founder of St. Paul's

School, and of More, Wolsey's successor in the Chancellorship, that Erasmus came to England in 1510 to teach Greek in the University of Cambridge. Linacre himself, a scholar of great attainments, published a translation of Galen, and a treatise on the structure of Latin, which circulated on the continent as well as in England, and obtained the commendation of Melancthon in Germany not long after its publication and the praise of Hallam in the present century. Hallam has also spoken in high terms of Linacre as a physician who rescued the art of healing from mischievous ignorance, and guided the student in the path of real knowledge. Our present interest in this remarkable man arises from a gift of his house in Knightrider Street as a home for the newly founded College of Physicians. The College was afterwards removed to Amen Corner, and at a later date to Warwick Lane, but No. 5, Knightrider Street, known as the Stone House, which has been pulled down to make room for the Savings Bank buildings, was long pointed out as the site of the earliest college.

An even more famous name, and a more important advance in medical science than had been effected by Linacre, is connected with this house. In 1619 William Harvey, also a native of Kent, delivered a series of lectures at the College of Physicians, in which he made the first public announcement of his great discovery of the circulation of the blood. His claim to have been the original discoverer has, I believe, been disputed, but without success. The credit of the most valuable and far reaching result of medical research is now almost universally assigned to Harvey, and, although in these days of flabby sentimentalism it may be forgotten, or conveniently ignored, the discovery which has revolutionized medical and surgical art was not made without recourse to the practice of vivisection.

Reference has been made to three inns which formerly stood on part of the ground now being built over in Addle Hill. A map of Castle Baynard Ward in Strype's edition of Stow, dated 1750, shows that the quadrangle already described was then pierced by two alleys which were subsequently built upon. Each alley gave access to an inn, and, I am sorry to have to record the fact, these inns were the resort of men and women of bad character. The Mermaid occupied the head of a blind alley opening into Carter Lane; the Maidenhead, almost in the centre of the quadrangle, was accessible from Addle Hill as well as from Knightrider Street, and the two entrances, or exits, were a great convenience to the frequenters of

the Maidenhead, whenever a zealous ward constable, in an excess of zeal for morality, thought it well to make inquisition for disorderly characters. The third inn, the Bell, at the corner of Bell Yard and Carter Lane, had a much better reputation, and can be connected with an act of neighbourly kindness on the part of no less a person than William Shakespeare. The only extant letter to the poet is dated "From the Bell in Carter Lane, the 25th October, 1598," and was written by Richard Quincy, of Stratford, whose son, Thomas Quincy, became the husband of Judith Shakespeare's younger daughter, the heroine of Mr. Black's novel. The object of the writer of the letter was to obtain from his "loving countryman and friend" a loan of thirty pounds on the joint security of himself and another, and the letter contains a pious prayer that "the Lord may be with us all." The Bell continued to flourish until a few years ago, and was at one time frequented as a luncheon place by Savings Bank men. But for some reason they withdrew their support; the business declined and the last landlord became bankrupt. He was examined in court as to the cause of his failure, and he stated that it was entirely due to the fact that his principal customers were clerks in the Savings Bank, who had been supplanted by women. His excuse was accepted by a too credulous registrar; the house was closed and every trace of it has now disappeared.

For many centuries after the site of the Post Office Savings Bank had been built upon, Mount Pleasant was an open swampy field sloping down to the Fleet or, as Stow calls it, the River of Wells, from the numerous springs, or wells, flowing into it from the low hills upon which Clerkenwell now stands. "There are also about London on the north side excellent suburban springs with sweet wholesome and clear water that flows rippling over the bright stones, among which Holy Well, Clerkenwell, and St Clement's are held to be of most note," wrote William Fitzstephen, a trusted clerk of Thomas à Becket, in the account of London prefixed to his life of the Archbishop. To these springs we may add Sadler's Wells, Bagnigge Wells, and others, all more or less chalybeate, and at one time much resorted to for their supposed health-giving qualities. Bagnigge Wells came into repute before the middle of the eighteenth century, and the discovery of the medicinal qualities of this spring led to the opening of Bagnigge Wells Gardens, which extended on either side of the Fleet River, and had some effect on the fortunes of the site with which we are more immediately interested.

Mount Pleasant may be described as an irregular pentagon, with the thoroughfare from which it derives its name on the south-eastern side. The north-eastern side abuts on Farringdon Road, and on the other sides are Calthorpe Street and Phoenix Place. At the junction of Farringdon Road and Mount Pleasant is a piece of ground covered with houses, but forming no part of the Post Office premises, and on this spot there formerly stood a house which is said to have belonged to Sir John Oldcastle, the friend of Henry V., and according to some accounts, although Shakespeare himself repudiated the suggestion, the prototype of the fat knight Sir John Falstaff. Although there is much uncertainty about some of the facts of Oldcastle's life, it seems generally agreed that he was a Herefordshire man, a brave soldier and a Lollard. In his youth he was page to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk; in early manhood he distinguished himself fighting against the Welsh. Having buried two wives, he married in 1409 the already thrice widowed Lady Cobham, granddaughter of John, third Lord Cobham, who was also a Lollard, and with whom, probably on account of their similar religious opinions, Oldcastle has been confused. Four years after his marriage he was condemned as a heretic by a synod held in St. Paul's Cathedral under Archbishop Arundel, and was handed over to the secular powers for execution. His friendship with the king stood him in good stead; he escaped from the Tower and remained at large until 1417, when he was arrested, hanged, and burnt in St. Giles's fields. The place of his capture is by no means certain, but common tradition refers it to Clerkenwell, where the name of Lord Cobham, as he was sometimes called, was given in 1720 to Cobham Row, now partially destroyed by the new street to Holborn, and opposite the principal entrance to Mount Pleasant. Long before Cobham Row was built there stood on the piece of ground at the junction of the present Farringdon Road with Mount Pleasant an inn sometimes called the Lord Cobham but more generally the Sir John Oldcastle, and this inn is said to have been originally Oldcastle's house. It existed as an inn at least as long ago as the beginning of the seventeenth century and probably much earlier. In 1744, according to an announcement in the *Daily Advertiser*, the inn gardens were greatly enlarged, the best liquors of all kinds were supplied, and there was music beginning at 5 and ending at 9 o'clock, the price of an admission ticket being sixpence, which was allowed for in the reckoning. But the glories of the enlarged gardens, the music, and the illuminations, for the place was lighted at dusk, were short lived. The recently opened and

adjoining gardens of Bagnigge Wells, with their chalybeate spring, and the river flowing through the grounds, eclipsed the grandeur of the Sir John Oldcastle, and in 1754 the lease of the premises was assigned to the Trustees of the Small Pox Hospital, who used the house for the reception of persons suffering from that disease, and admitted all applicants on payment of £1 os. 6d. each, to defray the cost of the funeral in case the patient should not come out alive. The people of Clerkenwell were not unnaturally alarmed at the establishment of the Hospital, and applied to the Court of Chancery for an injunction. But Lord Chancellor Hardwicke refused to interfere, and the Hospital was maintained at Clerkenwell until 1794, when it was removed to St. Pancras. The adjoining fields had meantime become an even greater nuisance than the Hospital, and the frequenters of Bagnigge Wells complained bitterly, and with good reason, that they were poisoned by the horrible stench from Gardiner's Field, as the site of Mount Pleasant was then called. Were I to quote a description of the place in verse, which may be read in Pink's *History of Clerkenwell*, the Editor of this Magazine would, I am sure, strike it out; I will only mention that Gardiner's Field was used for the reception of all the filth of London.

In 1788 the Middlesex magistrates bought Gardiner's Field for £4,350, as a site for a new House of Correction. The people of Clerkenwell, who had already one gaol in their parish, objected to a second, but were as unsuccessful as they had been in their opposition to the Small Pox Hospital. The field was cleared of the accumulation of rubbish and filth, and in some places, owing to the swampy nature of the ground, piles were driven in for the foundation of the prison. Plans were prepared, submitted to John Howard, the prison reformer, and published in a folio volume by Mr. Middleton, the architect. The original building, which stood well back from the street, cost £66,000, and was opened in 1794 for the accommodation of 232 prisoners. It seems to have been shamefully built, and forty years later, when, owing to an outbreak of cholera, it was necessary to overhaul the drains, it was found that the brickwork had never been properly set, and had fallen in to such an extent that there was an almost entire stoppage of the flow of the sewage. The first governor of the prison, a retired baker named Aris, was a brute who illtreated the unfortunate inmates and walked about carrying a knotted rope which he used unmercifully on their backs. The prison was generally spoken of as the Bastille, corrupted in Cockney language into "The Steel," and on more than one occasion a mob

attempted to force the gates and to wreak vengeance on the governor. To the mismanagement of the prison there is abundant testimony. Southey, then a Radical, in some verses entitled "The Devil's Walk," which he did not include in later editions of his poems, wrote of his hero—

As he passed through Cold Bath Fields he looked  
At a solitary cell,  
And he was well pleased, for it gave him a hint,  
For improving his prisons in hell.

He saw a turnkey tie a thief's hands  
With a cordial tug and a jerk,  
Nimble, quoth he, a man's fingers can move  
When his heart is in his work.

Mr. Pitt, about the same time, visited Cold Bath Fields and subsequently expressed in the House of Commons a hope that in another world there might be some abatement of the due punishment of those who had been confined in the prison, in consideration of all they had undergone there. At last a Government Commission enquired into the abuses, the governor was dismissed and died in great poverty, and the management was thoroughly reformed.

When Cold Bath Fields prison was first opened only male offenders were confined there. At a later date women were also received, but they were removed in 1850. The prison was from time to time enlarged; in 1855 it contained 1,317 prisoners and in 1862, 200 more. It was finally closed under the Prisons Act of 1877, and is now, as we know, devoted to other uses than the correction of malefactors.

Mention has been made of Sir John Oldcastle's connection with Cold Bath Fields, and of his execution as a heretic. Two other leaders in religious movements lived and died in the immediate neighbourhood during the last century. Emanuel Swedenborg died in Great Bath Street in 1772, and Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, at the Chapel House in Spa Fields in 1791. In Dorington Street, which now forms part of Mount Pleasant, Henry Carey, the author of "Sally in our Alley," committed suicide in 1743, and Eustace Budgell, who lived in Cold Bath Square went thence to drown himself at London Bridge in 1730. Budgell, who contributed several papers to *The Spectator*, was Addison's first cousin, and through his influence received an appointment in the Civil Service. But not obtaining the promotion to which he thought himself entitled he libelled his official chief and was dismissed. He was afterwards

suspected of forging a will, and gained such immortality as Pope could bestow by a reference in the "Dunciad" and a couplet in the "Epistle to Arbuthnot":

"Let Budgell charge low Grub Street on his quill,  
And write whate'er he pleased except his will."

But I do not wish to quit Mount Pleasant under the shadows cast by the suicides of two men of letters, and as we have seen David Copperfield in his younger days at Doctors' Commons we will take leave of him as an older man in the Middlesex House of Correction not, of course, as a prisoner, but as an inquirer into prison management and discipline. Readers of Copperfield's life will remember Salem House and its master, Mr. Creakle, who in later years was a Middlesex magistrate and a visiting justice to one of the county gaols, "an immense and solid building erected at a vast expense." This was surely Cold Bath Fields prison, and here Copperfield and Tommy Traddles, under the guidance of Mr. Creakle, had the "system" carefully explained to them. Here, too, they renewed their acquaintance with Uriah Heep, writhing and 'umble as ever, reading a hymn book and bearing the consequences of his follies without repining, and with Mr. Littimer, equally repentant, who delivered himself of an edifying discourse upon forgiveness. In this highly moral atmosphere we will bid farewell to our old friends and to our subject.

Savings Bank Department.

J. A. J. HOUSDEN.



A. BYGATE, EX-POSTMASTER, DURHAM.





GENERAL POST OFFICE NORTH.

*The Principal Entrance.*



## The Lost Case.

Ubi est ille casus ?—" *Papers, please!* "  
Non est inventus.—" *No Trace!* "



HAD a case to deal with, a many years ago ;  
To long-suffering officials I endorsed it to and fro ;  
I merely had to write the name of some subordinate,  
And add my indispensable initials, and the date,  
But a vast amount of thought I would habitually bestow  
On that case I used to deal with, a many years ago.

It was sadly unconsecutive, and also rather fat ;  
It required a strong hydraulic ram, at least, to make it flat ;  
Its general effect was like rhinoceros's hide,  
With a loose accumulation of unsorted "guts" inside ;  
But with all its faults I loved it ! *Grand Dieu, qu'il était beau,*  
That case I used to deal with, a many years ago !

I need not say, on principle I never read it through ;  
Detail tends only to impede a broad impartial view ;  
But with the fearless confidence which ignorance displays,  
I endorsed it, and referred it, in those happy happy days ;  
I cheerfully endorsed it, and referred it to and fro,  
That case I used to deal with, a many years ago.

It was no ordinary case ; it made Controllers quail,  
Nay, at the very sight of it Surveyors' clerks turned pale ;  
The strictest sons of duty, when it came to them again,  
Found their official consciences relax beneath the strain ;  
They sent it back, *half dealt with!* Ah, well, 'twas often so  
With that case I used to deal with, a many years ago.

One day, when I was absent with a bad sore throat and cough,  
My *locum tenens* dealt with it, and basely marked it off !  
He took no record of it, nor could the slightest trace  
Be ever found thenceforward of that old familiar case ;  
It must, I think, be in the vaults under the G. P. O.,  
That case I used to deal with, a many years ago.

LEO WOLFE.

## *A Comparison of the Reports on the British and Indian Post Offices 1893-94.*

**L**ET us first consider the financial conditions of the two departments. In doing so it is necessary to exclude telegraph accounts from the British returns, as such do not appear in the Indian Post Office report. The telegraphs in India are administered by a separate department, and although the two partly co-operate for economy in working, there has been no actual amalgamation. This is bound to take place in time, as conducive to economy, but at present the question of amalgamation remains in abeyance. The financial position of the postal business is:—

### BRITISH POST OFFICE.

Receipts ...	...	...	...	£10,472,000.
Expenditure	...	...	...	7,738,000.
Surplus	...			<u>2,734,000.</u>

### INDIAN POST OFFICE.

Receipts ...	...	...	...	Rs.1,67,17,510.
Expenditure	...	...	...	<u>1,62,55,125.</u>
Surplus	...			4,62,385.
Surplus calculated at the present rate of exchange, 1s. 1d. ...}				<u>£25,045.</u>

It will be observed that the business in both countries is conducted at a profit, but there is a vast difference between a surplus of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  millions and one of £25,000, and this requires some explanation.

To get free from the trammels of tradition is always a difficult task. In Europe the post has habitually been looked upon as a

source of revenue. In the earlier times it used to be farmed out. Traditions were temporarily upset when Rowland Hill induced the country to accept his uniform postage scheme. Then the immense advantages of cheap postage were duly appreciated, and the Post Office was not required to contribute to the exchequer. For some years now there has been a tendency to revert to former traditions, and the chief aim has been to squeeze as much revenue as possible out of the department. This must necessarily curtail the extension of postal facilities. The Indian Post Office is quite a modern institution, and the department dates only from 1854. Fortunately like modern institutions it was not hampered by tradition; and the Indian Government wisely laid down the liberal and forward policy, that the department was not created as a source of revenue to the State, but for administering to the public convenience. The immense value of cheap postage was recognised, especially in a country where the population is poor. The result of this enlightened policy was, that a half-anna, or half-penny rate for letters was introduced in 1854; this, together with the one pice or one farthing post-card, introduced in 1879, is extremely popular, and is the cheapest postage in the world. Had such a policy been pursued in England, half-penny postage for letters would have been a fact there years ago, and the time would have been ripe now for the introduction of penny colonial postage. Rowland Hill took great pains to show that the cost of transit for a letter was but a small fraction of a penny. His figures were elaborate and unimpeachable. The conditions in India are much less favourable for a half-penny rate than they are in England, because of the great distance a letter can travel for the initial rate, and the comparatively few people that can read or write. I am aware it is frequently asserted that half-penny matter does not pay in England, but I have never seen a serious attempt to prove it, or to controvert Sir Rowland Hill's figures.

The postal traffic in correspondence and parcels was :—

		Estimated number of articles.	Average per head of population.
British Post Office	...	2,853,534,000	74'1
Indian Post Office	...	369,782,098	1'29

Thus the British traffic is about nine times greater than the Indian. However, the most remarkable feature in the above figures is the difference in the average per head of population. This is easily explained by a reference to the last census returns, which show that in a population of about 261 millions, only 12 millions could read or

write.\* Increase in the Indian postal traffic depends now chiefly on the diffusion of education, and as this advances it will open out an expansive future for the Post Office. The prospect is so brilliant that in spite of declared policy the department may eventually contribute a large revenue to the government, and in its future budgets the Post Office may even supplant declining opium as one of the sheet-anchors of Indian finance.

The following table shows the number of post offices and letter boxes compared with the area and population :—

	Number of post offices.	Number of letter boxes (including those at post offices).	1 Post Office serves.		1 Letter Box serves.	
			Square miles.	Population.	Square miles.	Population.
British Post Office ...	20,016	46,005	6	1,898	2·6	826
Indian Post Office ...	10,387	26,909	145	27,462	56·	10,600

These figures merely serve to further illustrate the scope for development in India.

		Number of articles sent out for delivery.	Number of articles sent to D.L.O.	Articles undisposable.
British Post Office ...	2,853,534,000	18,155,795	12,301,874	
Indian Post Office ...	379,165,281	4,299,445	769,526	

The above figures show the working of the dead letter branch, and require some explanation. Money orders are included in the articles entered as sent out for delivery in India. The British returns do not show the number of post-cards, book packets, newspapers, patterns and samples, returned to the senders, and it is accordingly presumed that no attempt is made to return such articles. The Indian Post Office endeavours to return every class of postal matter, and in its efforts has enormous difficulties to contend with. The European population is constantly on the move, officials being rarely kept at the same station for more than an average of two years; the native population is ill educated, and speaks many tongues, which are written in divers characters. Some years ago in the D.L.O. of the North Western Provinces a collection was formed containing 31 specimens of the different characters in which the native languages

\* No enumeration of the number who can read and write was taken in Central India and Rajputana, and these provinces are excluded from the above calculation.

are expressed. It will be seen how excellent the work in the Indian branch has been, when the articles undisposable represent only '2 per cent. of the total number given out for delivery.

The Indian report says :—"There were 2,368 unpaid letters which were refused by the addressees and contained only blank pieces of paper apparently sent to annoy the recipients or as a pre-arranged mode of communication involving only the cost of stationery and no charge for postage."

		Letters registered.	Parcels.
British Post Office	...	11,742,352	54,034,630
Indian Post Office	...	7,132,334	2,339,416

The figures for registration and parcel work show that, comparatively speaking, registration is resorted to more frequently in India than in the United Kingdom. It is curious to observe the immense parcel work of the British Post Office, which only undertook this traffic in 1883, whereas the Indian Post Office has carried it on since 1854. But the above figures represent only the "ordinary" parcel work in India, and do not include the articles (chiefly parcels) sent under that most convenient arrangement, the value payable system.\* The parcel rates are high in India, and require to be reduced and the work simplified before there can be any great expansion. At present all parcels are sent under a system of registration. In the ordinary parcel branch the Indian department could learn much from the British, the procedure could be greatly simplified, and only those parcels registered for which a special fee is paid.

		Number of money orders.	Amount.
British Post Office	....	8,963,032	£24,618,809
Indian Post Office	...	8,753,940	Rs.18,35,34,008.

The above figures of the inland money order branch show favourably the work of the Indian Post Office, which has a most convenient system, partly based on the German. A person applying for a money order pays his money at a post office, and obtains a receipt for the same. The department undertakes to pay the order at the residence of the payee, and to forward his acknowledgment to the sender. A coupon is attached to the money order form to enable the sender to write any communication to the addressee.

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\* Number of value payable articles 1,596,952 ; declared value Rs. 1,76,14,628.

	Deposits.		Withdrawals		Balance.		One a/c for per- sons.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	No. of accounts.	Amount.	
British P.O.	9,838,198	£ 24,649,024 Rs.	3,618,721	£ 21,764,566 Rs.	5,748,239	£ 80,597,641 Rs.	6·6
Indian P.O.	.....	4,40,72,725	.....	4,25,38,122	574,050	8,26,57,319	496·

The figures of the savings bank business show the comparatively small progress the work has made in India, where there is only one account to 500 persons as contrasted with one account to 6·6 persons in England. The rural population is very ignorant, and measures might be taken in India as in the United Kingdom to distribute leaflets, in the vernacular of the district, from house to house at all places where there are agencies. The whole cost of transacting the savings bank business in India falls on the department, and this accordingly diminishes the postal revenue. No credit is allowed in the accounts for the cost of this banking business. Until the government deals more equitably with the Post Office, it is, perhaps, hardly to be expected that the department will go out of its way to voluntarily incur expenses which tell against its own working, and which have no redeeming feature from a departmental view.

In the British report I can find no figures giving particulars of inland postal lines. The following are the figures in the Indian report:—

Railway	...	...	...	18,107 miles.
Horse and mail cart	...	...	...	6,091 „
Runners and boats	...	...	...	78,221 „
Steamers	...	...	...	14,188 „
				<u>116,607</u>

In the Indian Post Office the number of complaints made by the public was 9,448, and it was found on investigation that there was valid ground for complaint in only 37 per cent. of the total number, while 42 per cent. were entirely groundless. The Director-General remarks:—

“It is natural when a letter miscarries between two persons having friendly or business relations with each other that it should be assumed at first that the post office was at fault; but the experience of the past year, as of previous years, showed that the assumption is more often wrong than right. . . . A certain number



of complaints appear to be prompted by bad feeling towards individual members of the postal staff, and this is specially the case with complaints against schoolmasters in charge of post offices, and a considerable number of complaints in the past year were found on enquiry to have originated with schoolboys apparently from no other motive than to gain experience in English official correspondence. It is now a fixed principle of postal administration that all complaints should be welcomed, and there is one class of complaint that the Post Office would gladly see multiply many times—complaints against the mis-sending and consequent delay of ordinary unregistered letters and post-cards. When the mis-sending of a letter is noticed in the post office, a slip is attached to the envelope asking for its return for enquiry, but only a small proportion of the covers thus asked for are returned by the addressees. Apart from complaints relating to particular postal transactions, complaints regarding errors and abuses of a more general character are often received and are most useful. Thus, in the past year, the fact that a post office had been placed in a quarter of a village which low caste Hindus were not allowed to visit was brought to notice by a letter in the public press, and a complaint regarding another post office led to the discovery of a serious abuse in connection with delivery work arising from the employment of high class postmen in delivery beats which included quarters occupied by Pariahs or low caste Hindus. . . . Complaints which proved to be well-founded were made by the public in respect of only 96 out of over 7 million registered letters, 43 out of over 2½ million parcels, 22 out of 285,000 insured articles, and 25 out of 1½ million value-payable articles."

It would have been curious to compare the number of offences committed by postal servants in the United Kingdom and in India, but no information is given under this head in the British report. In India the number of legal convictions was 190, and the number of cases departmentally punished was 150, making a total of 340 major offences by servants of the Post Office.

Highway robberies and attacks upon the mail are happily things of the past in the United Kingdom. The following paragraph referring to this subject in the Indian report will seem to our *confrères* in the British service like a page from ancient history:—

"In 14 out of the 18 cases of highway robbery the mail carriers or their escorts were wounded or otherwise injured at the time of attack or while defending the mail. In one case, in the Basim district (Central Provinces), the mail tonga was stopped by a large band of robbers, and both the driver and a passenger were beaten with sticks and stones and left insensible on the road, while the mail was carried away to a field some distance off and there opened and plundered. In another case, on the line from Bohat to Thull (Punjab Circle), the mail ekka was fired at and both the driver and horse were hit, the former being severely wounded. The whole mail

was then carried away and no trace of it was afterwards found. In both these cases the efforts of the police to discover the robbers were unsuccessful. In another case, in the Thana district (Bombay), the runner was killed, but fortunately in that case the murderers were detected and convicted, and nearly all the contents of the mail were recovered. The only case in which Government suffered any considerable loss occurred in the Kistna district of Madras, where the mail included four parcels insured for Rs.1,365—8; in 6 cases the entire mail was recovered; in 8 cases a portion was recovered and the loss to Government was altogether only Rs.52—6; and in the remaining three cases the entire mail was stolen but the loss to Government was only Rs.400. Prosecutions were instituted in five cases and convictions obtained in four cases."

Let us conclude by a comparison of the staff.

		Males.	Females.
British Post Office	... ..	108,236	27,875
Indian Post Office	... ..	47,206	19

There is no information in the British returns from which to eliminate the telegraph staff, but the most noticeable feature in the figures is the few women employed in India, and on this point the Director-General remarks:—

"... it is only under the most exceptional circumstances that the employment of any native woman is possible in the Post Office, and 18 out of the 19 women in the service are Europeans or Eurasians. Of the 18 women, 1 is postmistress of a head office, 5 are postmistresses of sub-offices, 11 are clerks, and 1 is a telegraph signaller."

Although the Post Office in India is the worst paid state department, it is acknowledged generally by the public press to be the best worked, and it is especially gratifying to its members to have their services on behalf of the public so cordially recognised. It is almost the only incentive to continue good work, for an ungrateful government has turned a deaf ear to the scheme for ameliorating the prospects of the hard-worked postal staff. Superintendents are supposed to get a holiday on New Year's Day, the Queen's Birthday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day. Personally I can say that for the last five years I have had to work the same on these so-called holidays as on any other day. My present chief, when formerly in the directorate, was not even allowed a holiday on his wedding day, but in the afternoon was sent a box of papers for disposal.

Quetta, India.

ANGAREION.

## *Indo-European Telegraph Department.*

**WE** have received the report of this department for 1893-1894. Whilst important to all Englishmen who realize the necessity for rapid inter-communication, always available, between the Indian Empire and the centre of power at home, the report offers features of special interest to members of the telegraph service, seeing that the lines of the department are carried over storm-beaten mountains, plains devastated by frequent floods, and remote wastes of sand, and are exposed to constant injury from semi-civilised and even barbarous populations. The following particulars furnish an honourable record of all these difficulties overcome, and of the maintenance and gradual improvement of this line of communication with the East. The control of the department, it should be observed, was transferred from the Government of India to the Secretary of State from the 1st April, 1893, and the office of the Director-in-Chief was re-opened in the India Office, London, on the 2nd June, 1893.

In the case of lines of such consequence for governmental and strategic purposes, the financial results should perhaps be relegated to the second place, the questions first arising for determination being rather the message-carrying capacity of the lines, their freedom from interruption, and the rapidity and accuracy with which the traffic is disposed of.

It appears that the total of messages carried during the year amounted to 120,297, containing 1,666,262 words, *i.e.*, an increase of 358 words on the preceding year. The proportion of traffic carried over the Persian route of this administration and over the land lines of the Turkish Government, respectively, was 93·6 and 6·4. This disparity will not be wondered at on examination of the subjoined

table, showing the average time of transmission between the United Kingdom and Bushire, and between Kurachi and Teheran, the latter being the section worked by the department :—

	Between the United Kingdom and Karachi, via Teheran.		Between the United Kingdom and Karachi, via Turkey.		Between Karachi and Teheran.	
					Karachi to Teheran.	Teheran to Karachi.
	hrs.	mins.	hrs.	mins.	hrs. mins.	hrs. mins.
1888-89 ...	1	4	19	28	13 26	13 47
1889-90 ...	0	59	12	14	11 23 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 28
1890-91 ...	0	59	10	25	18 26	10 26
1891-92 ...	0	59	16	12	8 42	6 25
1892-93 ...	0	45	27	47	5 51	4 26
1893-94 ...	0	43	36	49	5 40	4 28

The department considers that on its lines a very high rate of speed has been maintained. The percentage of errors in the lines of the administration is as follows :—

#### IN THE PERSIAN GULF SECTION.

1892-93	...	...	...	...	0·121
1893-94	...	...	...	...	0·141

#### IN THE PERSIAN SECTION.

1892-93	...	...	...	...	0·245
1893-94	...	...	...	...	0·233

As regards the reliability of the lines, it appears that in the case of the cables, interruptions occurred only in the Bushire-Fao section (maintained by the department and used in connection with the Turkish land lines). These, two in number, were caused through corrosion of the guards of the cable. They lasted, respectively, 9 days 10 hours 49 minutes, and 12 days 15 hours 8 minutes. On the Mekran coast line, extending for 710 miles, chiefly along the south of Beloochistan, between Karachi and Jask, total breaks occurred at the same time at various places, one lasting from 24th January to 1st February, a period of about 7 days. These serious interruptions were caused by cyclonic weather all along the coast with very heavy rains and exceptional floods. Another total interruption occurred through the wilful breaking of some insulators, bringing the total interruptions up to 8 days 20 hours 6 minutes. During the heavy floods, the country for some 60 miles was under water, so that it was impossible for the "line guards" to cross the

rivers and the salt plains. In the Karachi-Gwadar subdivision of the line, the route was changed for 22 miles from a salt plain near the sea to better ground under cover of a range of sandhills. Thirty miles of badly corroded wires were renewed, and 85 corroded standards replaced by new ones. Wilful damages to this line, especially between Charbar and Jask, have much increased during the past year. Accordingly, the value of all material damaged or stolen has been deducted from the subsidies of the chiefs, and they have been warned that their subsidies will be stopped altogether if these damages continue; and this appears to have had the desired effect. It is strange to think of the familiar line of poles and wires threading these remote wastes of Beloochistan, through which the army of Alexander the Great, returning from the conquest of the Punjaub, struggled, on their desperate way over the hot loose sands, tormented by thirst and a burning sun, regarding themselves as men almost lost on the unknown confines of the world.

On the Persian section of the telegraph line a total interruption of 11 hours 5 minutes was caused by disastrous floods, which swept away towns and villages; but by the aid of the new Cardew's vibrators, communication was established between Ispahan and Shiraz. By the use of these delicate instruments total interruption was prevented on two occasions. On one of these, during one of the severest snowstorms which has visited Southern Persia for many years, 44 messages of 621 words were transmitted between Shiraz and Bushire, a distance of  $122\frac{1}{2}$  miles, saving 4 hours 5 minutes; on the other occasion, when a flood caused a fault at a river 32 miles south of Shiraz, 46 messages of 445 words were transmitted, saving 18 hours 50 minutes.

A great advance has been made in diminishing interruption on the Teheran Meshed line, which was interrupted in 1893-4 for  $542\frac{1}{2}$  hours only as compared with  $1242\frac{1}{2}$  hours and 1471 hours in the two preceding years. The improvement is to be attributed to better insulation, and greater promptitude in repairs, whilst heads of villages have been strictly enjoined by the Persian authorities to prevent wilful damage. This line was handed over to the department in 1885 by the Persian Government, which allows a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 per annum for its maintenance, besides certain extra sums for improvement.

Not on land only have the lines been attacked. Below the waters of the Persian Gulf the ravages of the toredo borer have necessitated the replacing of no less than 19·4 knots on the Bushire-Fao cable.

It is hoped, however, that the insidious depredations of these minute but formidable enemies will be checked by the use of brass taped core, which it is intended to employ on this line of cable in future.

Indirectly, locusts caused no small inconvenience and even alarm to the officials of the Administration. The depredations of the locusts brought about scarcity in Shiraz and the surrounding districts ; and the scarcity produced riots. The telegraph office and compound, which are situated in the town of Shiraz were occupied by the mob for some eight days, until an objectionable local governor was removed. Meanwhile the telegraph officials were practically the prisoners of the mob, but were fortunate enough to escape without damage to themselves or their instruments. The forbearance of the rioters seems to have been largely due to the tact and knowledge of the language and people displayed by the superintendent, and to the respect felt for the medical officer. Two natives, moreover, both descendants of the prophet and men of influence, exerted themselves with the crowd in favour of the telegraph staff, a service for which they have been rewarded by order of the Secretary of State with gold watches and chains.

A more formidable danger arose in the autumn of 1893, when a severe epidemic of cholera visited the South of Persia. One officer died. The Report commends certain members of the staff for the energy and devotion which they showed during this trying time.

The earnings of the lines of the Indo-European Telegraph Department for the year amounted to Rs. 13,50,856 or an increase of Rs. 48,340 on the previous year. The net result of the year's working was a profit of Rs. 4,90,248, an improvement of Rs. 52,580 on the previous year, giving a dividend on the capital of 4·28 per cent., as compared with a dividend of 3·8 per cent. in the previous year. The dividends for the years earlier than '92-'93, going backwards, are 1·4, nil, c·44, 1·72. The financial position is therefore steadily improving.

The department is less fortunate as regards its share in the Cis-Indian Joint purse, the agreement relating to which was entered into in 1878, the other contributors being the Eastern Telegraph Company and the Indo-European Telegraph Company. The department paid into the purse for the year £8,142 more than it drew out. During the sixteen years of the arrangement the total balance against the department amounts to £83,738.

Special interest attaches to the entry "Australasian Message Fund," under which appear the results of the reduction of rates to

Australasia (excluding Queensland and at first New Zealand) which took place on 1st May, 1891. The arrangement was that if the revenue from the Australasian traffic of the three above-mentioned Administrations should fall in any year below the revenue (£237,736) for the year 1889, taken as the basis, half the deficiency should be borne by the Australasian Colonies; as to the other half it was settled that the Administration's loss for any year was not to exceed £1,775. Its share of the loss for 1893-4 was £102 as compared with £632, £670 in the two preceding years.


The average length of private messages was in the year 1893-94 13·54 words, and in the preceding years 13·68, 13·70, 12·9, 12·6.

In the remote south-western corner of Beloochistan a telephonic service was introduced at Gwadur Office in September, 1893, so that the Native Political Assistant is now able to converse with and send service messages to Charbar (117 miles distant) whence they are transmitted to their destination by telegraph. The telephone service is stated to have worked very well on the whole.

It is noted that during the interruption on the Bushire Jask Cable of 1869, duplex working was carried on during the greater part of the day with perfect success between Bushire and Karachi.

V.

## *With Her Majesty's Mails in Manitoba.\**

“ET up, boys!” And amid the merry music of the sleigh-bells and the hearty good-byes of our friends, the wiry little ponies jump away at the crack of the whip, and Her Majesty’s mail once more leaves the Birtle post-office on its road to Shellmouth, fifty miles or more away across the snow-clad prairies. At a rattling pace we cross the Bird Tail River, whence the thriving little Manitoban village takes its name; but we soon get a check at the foot of the steep hill leading out of the town, for, like many another settlement in the Far North-West, Birtle lies deep in a hollow sheltered by clustering hills from the none too gentle touch of the biting blizzard. Slowly we climb the ascent, and, stopping awhile at the railway station to take aboard a few parcels, we make all snug, and prepare to face the long stretch of country that lies between us and our destination. It is a clear cold morning, with the mercury registering thirty degrees below zero; and the rising sun, glinting on the earth’s fleecy covering with a rich golden hue, imparts to the landscape a charm peculiar to early morning in these cold latitudes; while, from scattered chimneys, the smoke rises in long, straight columns of fluffy gray, observable for miles in such a clear atmosphere as this.

There had been no wind last night, so that the trail is fairly good, and the team lay themselves down to their work as if they enjoy it. Well wrapped up as we are in buffalo robes and skin coats, we begin to enjoy it too, and drink in the keen air in exhilarating draughts. True it is cold, but we feel it no more than we should ten degrees of frost under a murky sky in England. Our driver, an old Londoner, who knows every inch of the fifty-mile trail as well as Piccadilly, is a man of good education, entertaining, and of strong Tory predilec-

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\* Reprinted from *Chambers's Journal* of the 18th November, 1893.



tions, while we are to democracy inclined ; and so, with argument, chat, and reminiscences of the last Riel rebellion, we slip along, and soon have covered the twelve miles to Lansburn. Here we change mail-bags ; and in response to the invitation to come in and warm ourselves, we sit awhile by the stove, and take advantage of the heat to enjoy a few whiffs ; for, outside, the nicotine will quickly freeze and choke our pipes. We may not stay here long, though, and once more muffling ourselves in our wraps, we leave for Binscarth, the end of the first stage.

After a few miles, it is evident we are getting into a more thickly settled district. Pretty log-houses, each under its sheltering bluff ("Bluff," in the Canadian North-West, signifies a clump of trees), meet the eye at frequent intervals ; whilst russet-coated cattle, turned out for the warmth of the mid-day sun, pick at the hay thrown over the stackyard fences in evident contentment. Surely this keen air gives one a wonderful appetite ; and we are not sorry to see coming in view the farm-buildings of the Binscarth colony, even now getting famed from Winnipeg to the West Coast for its cattle. The last two miles are over a first-rate trail, and soon crossing the railroad, we land at the hotel. Here the driver, who is "boss of the whole outfit"—that is, sole owner of the rig and the ponies—unhitches, and personally superintends the feeding of his team ; and then together we sit down to dinner, served piping hot in a room the grateful warmth of which is very acceptable after our cold drive.

Dinner over, we take a few more whiffs, and then—mail matters having been "fixed up" meanwhile—we get behind a fresh team, and prepare to meet the twenty-seven miles of the second stage. On every side now the dwelling of the free and independent homesteader meets the eye ; and the healthy-looking youngsters, stopping in the midst of the "chores" to look at the mail-stage as it flashes by, seem to tell of comfort and plenty, if not absolute wealth, within. Eight miles out we enter on a stretch of rolling prairie-land. Diminutive hills and tiny dales—like fairy playgrounds—are interspersed with leafless poplar bluffs, pretty enough in summer, and even now pleasantly relieving the monotony of the dead-white prospect. But the snow has drifted badly in these hollows, and now and again the ponies flounder to their knees, and slowly we plough our way through ; but once more on rising ground we see Russell in the distance, and a good road over a piece of comparatively flat country soon brings us to the little town with its motley population

of old countrymen, Canadians, and half-breeds. Official work detains us here again for a few minutes, during which we make our way into the store and post-office—the general rendezvous and loafing-place, especially on mail day—and gather the latest news.

“All aboard” once more, and we are soon leaving Russell behind us on the last sixteen miles of the journey. On we go, up hill and down over a wretched trail, and through drifts that oftentimes take the little jumper away above the runners, while the air is getting colder as the short winter day begins to close in. Conversation now flags, and, somehow or another, our wraps don't seem so thick as when we started; and how we long to get out and stretch our stiffening limbs! Never mind; there's another twelve miles done, and we comfort ourselves by thinking of “Jackson's” and tea when—“Hulloa! what's that?” standing out in dark silhouette against the rapidly reddening sky! “Coyotes! by Jove!” And as a bend in the road brings them right on our flank, and scarce fifty yards away, we count no fewer than seven “friars in orders gray.” Lean and hungry brutes enough they are, and it is with bitter feelings we recollect we are entirely without “shooting-irons.” Harmless to man, our vigorous yells soon send them scampering to the right-about, to hunt for a supper off the shy but succulent cony.

We pass Lake Beautiful, and are soon at the top of the hill looking over the luxuriant hay flats of the Assiniboine Valley, and for an instant draw rein and drink in the restful beauty of the scene, while coachee bursts into poetry:

The day is ending,  
The night is descending,  
The marsh is frozen,  
The river dead.

Through clouds like ashes  
The red sun flashes  
On village windows  
That glimmer red—

he quotes, and well he may. The sun is just sinking behind the far bank of the river Assiniboine, leaving behind tiny, many-hued cloudlets, and bars of light that shade away from ruddy crimson and glorious gold into masses of softest pink and amber; while the snow, catching a thousand luminous tints from the whole range of the western sky, seems to glow with a beauty more than earthly. From afar, the tinkle of the cow-bells and the cries of the herders, mellowed by distance, come floating to us in sweet and musical

cadence. But the surly sough of the north-west wind, even now gathering energy for to-morrow's blizzard, bids us hasten ; and calling to the team, we descend the hill and hurry across the intervening flat at a pace that soon lands us at the Shellmouth Post Office. Many an eager eye on the watch for letters from the dear old home has descried our coming ; and the bags safely delivered, we turn to "Jackson's," where, with a celerity more than worthy of the old coaching days, kindly hands instantly unhitch and take stablewards the tired ponies, to be fed and tended by their ever-thoughtful owner before even he thinks of his own pressing needs.

What a picture we should make at home in caps, mitts, and huge buffalo coats, with our moustaches solid lumps of ice, and beards and whiskers of a hoary whiteness that old Father Christmas himself might envy ! Just now, however, sentiment gives way to supper, and that discussed with true nor'-western appetites, we gather once more round the stove, and heeding not the blast as it hurtles against the house in impotent fury, we sit and smoke, and with yarn and merry chorus beguile a few hours till sleep—as well beloved as supper—summons us to rest.

Thus, in the depth of winter, some three or more years ago, I travelled with Her Majesty's mails in Manitoba, a journey that was preceded, and has been followed, by many others in different parts of the North American Continent, and accompanying men employed in the same vocation, thereby affording me ample opportunity for observing how the business of mail-carrying is conducted in different localities.

In new countries and in sparsely settled districts it is so frequently attended with difficulty and danger that the men employed in this service are generally of a resolute and hardy type. In Manitoba and the North-West Territories the work is usually done by men who own the teams they drive ; and a large proportion are old countrymen, for whom "running the mail" with its free outdoor life, not wholly unattended with excitement, has untold charms. In the United States, too, I have "happened across" Englishmen employed in the same capacity ; and at one time I met in Texas a scion of one of our noblest houses riding pony-back with the mails between San Antonio and Bandera, for fifteen dollars a month and his board ; and a six-shooter always ready to hand in the not unlikely event of being "held up by road-agents." The distance is fifty miles each way ; and as the letters left San Antonio every second day, this meant continuous riding for six days, or three hundred miles a week.

In the Great Lone Land, however, the various mail-routes, though often embracing over a hundred miles of country, and conducted alike in scorching heat and intense cold, are entirely free from hostile interruption, and never once in the course of many years' experience did I hear of the mail robber getting in his work at the expense of the Government.

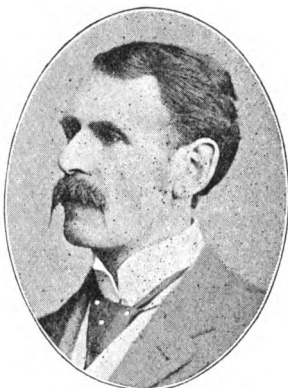
Occasionally, however, the mail-bags are conveyed by means other than those prescribed by the postal department; and though I have known the gay and festive ox-team pressed into the service, it was not exactly in the hope of gaining additional speed thereby; nor, when the bags are conveyed afoot, does the process quite come up to our notions of how the business ought to be managed.

But these are only exceptional cases. For ordinary work, a light four-wheeled rig drawn by a couple of ponies, and capable of seating one or more passengers in addition to parcels, is the usual thing; and on some routes where passengers and parcels are few and far between, one animal is sufficient to do the work. But in the winter, when the snow lies deep and wheels are unsuitable, a low "jumper" with broad runners, but quite open, takes the place of buggy or buckboard; and so, keeping himself protected as well as possible from "winter's cold, wild winds, and drifting snow," and enveloped in furs, the driver is willing and able to go anywhere and do anything; and a blizzard has to be keen indeed that will scare these sturdy fellows from the trail when duty calls.

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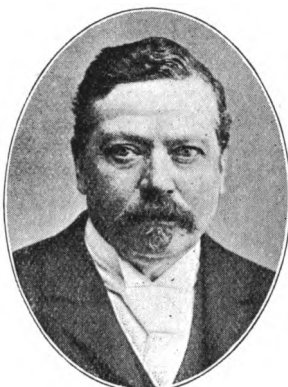
**E. TRENAM**  
(*Tel. Supt., Manchester.*)



**A. OATWAY**  
(*Controller, Dublin.*)



**J. T. HILL**  
(*Assistant Controller, C.T.O., London.*)



**E. MAY**  
(*Deputy Controller, C.T.O., London.*)



**J. W. EAMES**  
(*Assistant Controller, C.T.O., London.*)



**T. BARLOW**  
(*Assistant Controller, C.T.O., London.*)

❧ **SOME TELEGRAPH MEN** ❧

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

## *Concerning Postal Order Applications.*

**T**HE issue of Postal Orders is, as the Postmaster General's recently published report informs us, at the rate of sixty millions in the year. It is little to be wondered at, then, that with so enormous an annual sale, many queries and enquiries of a varied character should arise. Postal orders will get lost or stolen so long as there are postal orders to lose or steal. But it may be remarked in passing that the number of such losses appears to be very few in relation to the huge number transmitted through the post. In view of the possibility of a postal order going astray before it reaches the person for whom it is intended it is always well for the sender to take the number of the order, and this is a precaution which the Post Office has always enjoined on the public. The postal order public is, however, a careless one, and it is to be feared that not very many adopt the suggestion thrown out by the Department. But there are a faithful few who in cases of loss or theft are able to smooth the tedious path of subsequent inquiry by the Post Office, by having duly recorded the numbers of their postal orders; while such is the fidelity with which some have followed the official warning that on more than one occasion the printed number on the order has been literally taken and retained by the sender, much to the mortification, be it observed, of the payee who on presenting the order has been unable to obtain payment on the ground of mutilation.

Difficulties often arise in connection with postal orders through the carelessness of the holders themselves. The post is not always to blame for the loss of orders. Some people put their orders in places of such security that when subsequently they desire to get them cashed they are themselves unable to find the orders. Others forget all about them, and so it often happens that the orders do not come to light for weeks or months, and not infrequently years afterwards. Meanwhile, extra commission—imposed by Act of Parliament, be it observed, and which cannot, therefore, in any circumstances be waived by any power of the Department—is slowly but surely increasing.

Great is the astonishment of most of the holders of orders thus tardily presented when informed that payment can only be made after deduction of the extra commission due. More ludicrous is it, at least from a departmental point of view, when, as sometimes happens, the commission chargeable in such cases amounts to more than the amount of the order itself. In every such case the holder has preferred to retain the order. Fortunately this can only occur at present in the case of the orders of the lowest amount, and the public have accepted the situation very philosophically. It will probably be otherwise when such incidents happen in connection with postal Orders of more important amounts—say 20/- for example. But this is looking some thirty or forty years ahead, and it is a matter which need not trouble the writer at all events. He will no longer be in the service. The question of extra commission on postal orders exercises the public mind greatly. They cannot understand why such a charge should be made seeing that, as they view the matter, the Department has the use of the money during the period that the orders on which extra commission becomes chargeable are lying dormant. The fact of the matter, however, is that Parliament imposed this charge with the express intention of restricting the circulation of postal orders ; and moreover, the Post Office is unable to utilize for investment the money which the public thus leaves so long in its hands because the orders are payable on demand, and every post office has to be provided with a balance ready to meet such calls.

Fire is responsible for many lost postal orders, either owing to accident, pure and simple, or to carelessness. It is astonishing how many persons will persist in throwing their envelopes on the fire, after having removed the letters, without taking the simple precaution of looking to see whether there may be any further enclosure, and they awake to their folly when only able to recover a few charred remains. These, as a rule, are carefully put into a little box and sent up to the Postal Order Branch, in the happy belief that the black ashes will be a guarantee of the *bonâ fides* of the application and sufficient evidence on which to issue a duplicate order forthwith. Sometimes it is just possible to discern that such remains are really those of a postal order, but that is not of much use if the number by which it can be identified be not forthcoming. Occasionally good fortune will favour the applicant by leaving the number unburnt, when the Department is in a position to relieve his mind by the issue of a duplicate order.



Remarkable disappearances are sometimes, too, the cause of applications respecting postal orders. "I had taken the order out of the envelope," one will write, "and placed it on the table, when I was called from the room for a moment. On my return, the order was nowhere to be found. The window was open at the time and I'm afraid that the draught caused by my opening the door blew the order into the street, or up the chimney," as the case may be. At all events, the order was never seen again by the applicant, nor the money either if he was unable to furnish particulars of issue.

It is astonishing, too, how careless the poorer classes are in regard to postal orders which they will leave about so that their children can get hold of them to play with, or their dogs to worry. And then they are surprised to find the orders converted into small fragments, with frequently the most important portions totally destroyed, and all hope of recovery of the amount precluded. Applications have also been received respecting orders which have been "to the wash," the order presenting a quite white appearance, so thorough has been the washing, with only the black printing remaining. Of course, there is no difficulty in arranging payment in such cases and the applicants are soon made happy.

The inexorable regulations under which postal orders are issued are often a source of trouble to the public, though—and this they do not always readily see—really framed in their own interest. The regulations with regard to the payment of postal orders are simple enough, but either through ignorance, or from carelessness, they are not always complied with, or perhaps a postmaster will not be sufficiently liberal in his interpretation of them, then comes trouble and appeal to headquarters. Other applications arise out of natural causes, such as an order being six months over date, when it can only be paid after a reference has been made to the Chief Office; or when a poor person with no banking account has received a crossed postal order. The causes out of which postal order enquiries spring are, it will be seen, varied, and as may be inferred, cause a considerable amount of work to the Post Office. Such inquiries are made either in writing or personally. The bulk, of course, are received in writing, but the personal inquiries are the more interesting.

Memories of 27 Room in the G.P.O. West, where, until recently, the postal order personal applications were dealt with, linger in the mind of the writer. All sorts and conditions of men have come to that room on postal order application bent. If not exactly from prince to pauper, the range is considerably wide and may with truth

be said to have extended from peer to pauper. For strength in numbers the humbler classes no doubt took priority, but from time to time the occupants of 27 Room were gladdened or awed as might be by barons and baronets (their visits were red letter days), luminaries of the legal and medical professions, pretty actresses, and ladies of fashion (when the pulses of the said occupants quickened), generals, admirals, and last, but not least, came the clergy in great strength. But, interesting to us as were the varied stations in life of our visitors, more interesting still, and oftentimes amusing, were the traits of character which some of these interviews with officialdom as represented in 27 Room developed.

Many of the applicants came with the expressed determination of treating with no less exalted personage than the Postmaster-General, and some were intensely surprised to learn that that high official's sole duty was not to sit daily at the receipt of postal order applications, while all went away more or less disgusted at not being received in person by the Postmaster-General, though generally well satisfied with the treatment of their respective cases at the hand of the minion. A well-known applicant who for a long time made periodical calls, was a lady of somewhat numerous years, who always burst into the room with the exclamation, "Its a 'ard case," and certainly the explanation which was subsequently forthcoming proved to demonstration that it was a hard case. Her brother in the country, it seemed, held money in trust for her, and should have sent her a certain sum weekly. This, he said, he did by postal order, but, on two occasions, the orders did not arrive, and the old lady, though diligent in prosecuting her inquiries here, shrewdly suspected the orders were never sent. She sold matches in Newgate Street, and in the winter-time she would sometimes, on her weekly visits, beg permission to warm her hands at the fire, which was readily accorded. She never got any satisfaction as regards her missing orders, but she received some consolation in the small collection we made for her.

Another lady applicant will be remembered for her prolonged visit, owing to her falling fast asleep through having apparently imbibed not wisely but too well.

"They told me at my post office to go to the devil, and so I've come," was the pleasant remark with which the inquiry officer was greeted one day by an excitable gentleman who burst unceremoniously into the room. Subsequent inquiry proved that the usual misunderstanding had arisen between the local officials and the applicant, to whose satisfaction the matter was soon settled. Irascible and

excitable individuals were common enough among the postal order applicants, but, fortunately, few were as difficult to deal with as a certain lady who demanded to see the P.M.G. and glared at his humble representative. She stated that she had been followed all over London by Lord Salisbury, and finally left after having distributed some tracts.

A Scotchman, fresh from the Land of Cakes, came early one morning with a postal order he had taken from someone in Aberdeen and which he said was all the money he had, and a cabman was waiting outside to be paid. This was true enough, for the cabman also made his appearance to see, probably, that his fare did not disappear. "Special Scotch" was evidently the Scotchman's weakness, for he experienced some difficulty in making himself understood, and also in understanding what was said to him. "I don't know a word you're saying," was his constant ejaculation to the puzzled inquiry officer. Finally, the writer was able to assist a countryman in distress and to make matters right for him, and he and the cabman departed in peace.

The variety of human documents that passed through 27 Room was indeed great, and often created much diversion to the occupants; but perhaps the greatest amusement was derived when a foreigner, knowing little or nothing of the English language, made his appearance. It was delightful to watch the inquiry officer bashfully airing his French, or German, as the case might be, knowing all the time he was being critically watched by the rest of the room.

The foregoing are but a few of the curious specimens in postal order applicants which occur to the writer's mind. It is only fair he should add that, taken as a whole, such applicants are reasonable enough, and have shown themselves quite amenable to the various regulations with which Parliament has surrounded the postal order system.

R. & A. G. O.

ARCHIBALD GRANGER BOWIE.

## *The Money Order Office.*

**T**HE decision that the Money Order Office shall be permanently located at Mount Pleasant may render a short retrospect of the past history of this Department of increased interest to the many readers of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* in general, and to those who have formerly served there in particular. At the present moment, the awkward triangular sort of building labelled "Money Order Office," which formerly stood in Aldersgate Street, has become a memory of the past, while very many of its disestablished inmates are now scattered about in various branches of the General Post Office. It is in the hope that a few reminiscences of the past may serve to bring us again in touch with our brother officers from whom we are separated, that I have been induced to put them into shape. On the 12th of July, 1867, a limited competition was held at Burlington House to fill 40 vacancies in the Money Order Office. The successful competitors were afterwards known as the "Forty Thieves." At that time I was temporarily employed at the Treasury during the long illness of Mr. Buckland, a brother of Mr. Frank Buckland, and a son of a former Dean of Westminster. I remained at the Treasury for nearly two years, during which time I frequently saw Sir. S. A. Blackwood, then known as "Beauty Blackwood," and many were the kind words which he invariably addressed to me whenever he came into the room in which I was engaged. The vacancy caused by Mr. Buckland's death was filled by Mr. Algernon Turnor, who gained the first place in a competitive examination for an established clerkship. I well remember the first time he attended at the Treasury, but who could that day have predicted so rapid a rise and so eventful a career that he would in about 13 years after be called upon to fill the important position of Financial Secretary, in succession to Sir Arthur Blackwood. On entering the office, I was placed in charge of Mr. J. C. Hyde and Mr. Somerset R. French for instruction in my new duties. Mr. Hyde

was afterwards made Controller of the Sorting Office in Edinburgh, and Mr. French has become the Postmaster-General of the Cape. Of the aforesaid "Forty Thieves" only four are now in the office, Mr. C. W. F. Welchman, Mr. W. H. C. Jackson, Mr. F. B. La Croix, and myself. Mr. Charles Dibdin is the present Secretary of the National Lifeboat Institution. Mr. S. C. Hooley is the genial Controller of the Postal Stores, and Mr. A. E. Twiss is now Postmaster at Lincoln. Messrs. Gerahty, Swayne, Miller, C. Prall, and Richardson, occupy good positions in the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office. Twelve of the number have since died, and the remainder, from various causes, have disappeared from the service of the Department. In 1867, Mr. Frederic Rowland Jackson, who is still in the enjoyment of his pension, was Controller of the Office. Of all the subsequent Controllers, four in number, he is the best remembered and most frequently spoken of by those who served under him. His personality was unique. He was rugged in exterior and strong in his government, but withal of a kindly disposition. As we youngsters often remarked to one another, "his bark was worse than his bite." He was particularly proud of never having been away for a single day on account of illness, and never failed to send for an unfortunate Junior, on his return to duty, after having sent in a medical certificate, to inform him of this fact. On one occasion, he sent for a young officer, now deceased, a son of Mr. Haydn, the well-known compiler of the Dictionary of Dates, to express his surprise at some brief absence from illness, and of course trotted out the usual reference to his own robust health. "Dear me, Sir," replied young Haydn, "that is just like my poor father. He never had a day's illness in his life, and, as you know, he died recently quite suddenly." Mr. Jackson's official equilibrium was upset for the rest of the day, and, I believe, he left the office earlier than usual.

I well remember another occasion when he was fairly non-plussed. It had been brought to his knowledge that the errors made in the examination branch had been very numerous. Thereupon, some ten or twelve of us were ordered to attend in his private room, which we entered in fear and trembling. The Controller's wrath was great. Jerking his head, in a manner which was peculiarly his own, he addressed us in very stern tones, and predicted grave pains and penalties if ever he had reason to complain of errors again. Then, when his righteous indignation had been relieved by the severe rebuke which he had administered, he waited, as usual, to see what effect had been produced by his castigation. We also waited in

silent dismay, and looked to the senior offender to express our regret for the past and hopes of amendment in the future. Now it so happened that the senior offender was very deaf, and in the blandest manner possible he stepped forward, and said, "Have you been speaking about our mistakes, Mr. Jackson?" It is impossible to describe the situation. The Controller simply gazed at us in despair. Eventually, he requested us all to leave the room, with the exception of our unfortunate spokesman. What afterwards transpired we never could ascertain.

After the Controller, mention must be made of the Chief Examiner, Mr. C. J. Croke, who retired on abolition terms at the age of forty-five. No one could ever forget him. He was a man of commanding presence, always well-dressed, but adorned with rather a heavy display of jewellery. His mode of issuing his orders was certainly novel if not always official. Striding down the large hall, in which some seventy or eighty men were engaged on the examination and other duties, until he arrived at the centre, he would usually stand at the corner of a desk in a raised position where he could be seen and heard by all, and thence address us in the following terms: "Gentlemen and others, take notice that on and from such a date the following alterations are to be made, etc., etc.," and, if in a cheery frame of mind, he often added the loyal formula "God Save the Queen." We became so accustomed to this little by-play that beyond a smile here and there no notice was taken of it.

The transfer of the Cash Account Branch and also of the Ledger Branch to the R. & A.G.O. depleted the office of many of its best officers. Nevertheless, we have still upon the staff those who will be affectionately remembered, and especially so Mr. W. F. Evans, who worthily represents us outside the office in various capacities, and Mr. Field Stanfield, a son of the late Mr. Clarkson Stanfield, R.A.

This reference to Art brings vividly to my remembrance the late Mr. J. G. Atkinson, the kindly head of the Error Branch, who possessed considerable ability as a landscape painter in oils. He supplemented his income by the sale of these paintings, several of which were purchased by the late Sir Antonio Brady, and were, after his death, exhibited with his collection at the Bethnal Green Museum. I have at home a pretty painting of Coniston, which Mr. Atkinson gave me on his retirement, and it has been very much admired by my friends.

Any notice of the Money Order Office would be incomplete without the mention of three ex-members, Mr. James F. Wight,

Postmaster of Birmingham, Mr. G. C. Sturgeon, Postmaster of Norwich, and last, but not least, Mr. R. A. Egerton, formerly private Secretary to the late Mr. Raikes, and now a Surveyor.

The Established Church, in consequence of the many retirements that have taken place on abolition terms, now ranks amongst her Clergy four old Money-Order men, viz.: Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Annesley, Mr. Weber, and Mr. Alfred Werninck.

Finally, the Money Order Office can always point to the late Mr. Samuel Walliker, formerly Postmaster of Birmingham, and to Mr. T. E. Sifton, an Assistant Secretary, as energetic and useful servants of the General Post Office who served their apprenticeship with us.

The Money Order Office, which has not always been celebrated for the quality of its prose, is about the last place in which an evenly-balanced mind would expect to find any poetry, and especially amid its present surroundings. Nevertheless, Keningale Robert Cook, who retired in 1872, was beyond doubt a poet. He published a volume of poems in 1870, entitled *Purpose and Passion* which was very favourably reviewed by the press. Mr. Cook, who married a daughter of the late Mortimer Collins, had taken the degrees of M.A. and LL.B. at Trinity College, Dublin, the result of close evening study after office hours. Had he lived, and remained in the office, he would doubtless have been a frequent contributor to *St. Martin's-le-Grand*. The following lines from his pen will convey some idea of his style:—

“ Rest not on waveless waters of content,  
But take the oar of energy and row ;  
Row whitherward the spirit lead, although  
The iceberg frown and seas by storm be rent.

So shalt thou gain the haven through thy toil ;  
Experience is not had for nought—thy soul  
Opes ampler tablet, whereon to enroll  
Teaching that advent ages shall uncoil.”

W. H. F. CROOKSHANK.

M.O.O.

## *The Press and the Post Office.*

**W**E have lately remarked more than once on the greatly improved tone adopted by the press generally in writing on Post Office Politics. This has been specially noticeable in the case of *The Times*, which, in a leading article in its issue of the 24th August, remarks, with regard to suggestions which it makes as to postal reform :—

“We may leave them to the deliberations of the new Postmaster-General, who will have plenty to do if he undertakes to work out the question of cost—to which almost everything in these matters resolves itself—in the case of all.”

In the same article the following passages occur :—

“Everybody, for example, would prefer to pay a penny rather than twopence-halfpenny for sending a letter to Australia ; to pay half-a-crown rather than eight shillings for a telephonic conversation with Paris ; to send his name and address free on telegrams ; to pay less portorage, or none at all, for telegrams to his country home ; to be able to send parcels by post to Japan, or wherever else he may have correspondents ; and to post magazines as cheaply as newspapers. But the natural man concludes that these wishes of his cannot be gratified if the Post Office is to continue to pay ; so he bears his grievances as he can.”

After expressing sympathy with the idea of Imperial Penny Postage, it adds :—

“It is certainly not a reform that can be forced upon the colonies ; if they do not wish for it sufficiently to bear their share of the expense, their correspondents at home must of necessity go without it.”

A further leading article appeared on the 21st September :—

“We printed yesterday an abstract of the Report of the late Postmaster-General on the business of the Post Office. This annual document always affords a great deal of interesting and instructive reading. It is a record of the conduct by a public department of a vast and complicated business—a business of which it enjoys a strict monopoly and which it conducts on the whole with remarkable success. The Postmaster-General earns a handsome revenue for the State and can always point to gratifying statistics which show a progressive increase in the business conducted by his department,



generally accompanied by a decrease in its cost and often by many improvements in its general efficiency. For this reason the Post Office is popularly regarded, not unjustly, as a highly satisfactory institution. It does so much for us, and, on the whole, it does it so well, that very few people take the trouble to consider whether its work is really superlatively or only comparatively excellent. There are at any rate not a few undoubted historical facts connected with the working of the Post Office which might tend to moderate its own optimism and to abate the rather unreasoning admiration with which its performances are regarded by a large section of the public. The Post Office has not often adopted great reforms and improvements except under irresistible external pressure. Mail coaches were forced on it from without. The penny post was forced on it from without. It made a very bad bargain in its purchase of the telegraphs. It made by no means a good bargain with the railways in its arrangements for the conveyance of parcels when the parcel post was established. It has allowed a highly lucrative business in the distribution of newspapers to slip entirely out of its hands. It has not been particularly successful in the settlement of its relations with the telephone companies. Critics find no difficulty in enumerating a large variety of services which the Post Office might be expected to render to the public and does not, and in pointing to a long series of reforms and improvements which it might be expected to adopt and will not. Possibly such critics are often rather hasty and exacting. But the whole history of the Post Office forbids us to believe that its efficiency and merits, great as they are, are other than relative and comparative. Its performances are creditable, but not exceptionally brilliant. . . .

"Nevertheless, it is not to be denied that the service of the Post Office does exhibit a progressive improvement. We have now obtained free re-direction, not merely for letters, but for postcards, book parcels, newspapers, and samples. We have obtained private postcards, an express delivery service, and a revised *Post Office Guide*—the latter certainly not before it was needed, for the unrevised Guide was a positive miracle of confusion and complexity. The cycle has even been employed in the case of a few rural posts, but on this subject the late Postmaster-General remarks somewhat oracularly that 'the use of cycles by rural postmen has in some cases tended to cause uncertainty in the hour at which the postman may be expected, and this prevents their more general use.' The reasoning here is not very obvious.\* . . . However, this objection, such as it is, does not, we are told, apply as a rule in the case of telegraph messengers, 'and arrangements have recently been made in certain cases for supplying bicycles experimentally for the use of

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\* The meaning of course is that in summer when the roads are good letters would be delivered early, whereas, when the roads are too bad to admit of a bicycle being used, they would be much later. This would cause complaint.—

EDITOR.

telegraph messengers, and it is hoped that by this means a more expeditious and economical service will be secured.' Now this is a very apt illustration of the slowness of the Post Office to march with the times. For years the cycle has been employed by tradesmen for the delivery of light goods to their customers. Yet it is only now to be experimentally adopted by the Post Office for the delivery of telegrams, its use for the more expeditious and economical delivery of letters being still discountenanced because apparently the Post Office does not feel equal to arranging for the regular arrival at a given place of a postman who uses a cycle. However, the recognition of the cycle, partial as it is to be, is a step in the right direction; and as we are promised a more economical as well as a more expeditious delivery of telegrams, it is to be hoped that the Post Office will sooner or later see its way to a revision of the vexatious charge for portorage in respect of telegrams delivered at a distance of more than a mile from the post office. If it is found possible, as it is in many cases, for a newsagent to deliver a single copy of a newspaper free of charge at a distance of over a mile from his place of business, it ought to be possible for the Post Office to deliver a telegram at the same relative distance for considerably less than sixpence. It is true that there is an annual and apparently an increasing deficit on the working of the telegraphs. But that is no reason why the incidental service of delivery should be charged at a manifestly excessive rate and on terms which render the incidence of the charge peculiarly unequal and vexatious. Two houses may be situated 100 yards apart, one 1,700, the other 1,800 from the nearest postal telegraph office. All telegrams addressed to the former are delivered free, all telegrams addressed to the latter are charged sixpence for portorage. There must, of course, be a definite limit; but it seems to us that the rate of charge is excessive, and that the distance to be charged for should be measured from the limit of free delivery and not from the office itself.\*

"The whole chapter of the telegraph service is, however, manifestly rather a sore subject with the Post Office, which still chafes under the financial burden imposed on it by the original purchase of the telegraphs. The development of business has been extraordinary. In 1870-71, the first year after the transfer of the telegraphs to the State, the number of telegrams forwarded throughout the United Kingdom was 9,850,000 odd. It gradually rose to 39,140,000 odd in 1885-86—the year in which, on October 1, 1885, the *minimum* charge for an inland telegram was reduced to sixpence. In the following year it exceeded 50 millions, and it now stands at over 71½ millions. Not less remarkable is the progress attained in efficiency and rapidity of transmission. One of the appendices to the Report contains a brief 'Historical Outline of the Telegraph Service since 1870.' In this it is stated that 'in 1870 a speed of

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\* This is actually done now. The limit of free delivery in country villages is one mile.—EDITOR.

from 60 to 80 words a minute was the highest that could be attained in the working of the Wheatstone automatic apparatus. At the present time a speed of 600 words per minute has become possible, and the working speed of 400 words is the fixed standard for certain circuits. . . . Two copper wires between London and Dublin are working on the duplex system at even 300 words per minute, whereas under the conditions of 1870 they would only have given about 40 words in one direction as a *maximum*.' These and similar results are not unjustly cited by the Post Office as a sufficient answer to the contention urged at the time of the transfer that the possession by the Government of a monopoly would tend to discourage invention. Many of the improvements resulting in the present marvellous rapidity of transmission have been adopted from outside, but many others have been devised within the department, and it must be acknowledged that the Post Office is now probably one of the best schools of practical telegraphy in the world. But the financial results of this remarkable progress are considerably less satisfactory. In 1888-89 the receipts from telegraph business were £2,129,965, and the expenditure was £2,041,361; but as the annual interest on capital expended was £353,787, the resulting deficit was £265,183. In 1893-94 the receipts had risen to £2,579,206, and the expenditure to £2,757,645, while the interest on capital had fallen to £298,888, thus showing a deficit of £477,327. In 1894-95 the interest on capital was the same as in the previous year, but the receipts increased in a slightly larger proportion than the expenditure, and the deficit was thereby reduced to £452,803. Thus it appears that in the last seven years the expenditure has gradually risen in excess of receipts, so that whereas in 1888-89 there would have been a small surplus of receipts over expenditure, independently of the amount charged as interest on capital, there is no such surplus in 1894-95, but a deficit of £153,915, which, added to a charge of £298,888 for interest on capital, makes up the total deficit of £452,803. It is true that the deficit of the previous year was £25,000 larger, but it is far from satisfactory to find that, even if the interest on capital could be finally wiped out, the telegraph service would still be worked at a loss. In 1888-89 the number of telegrams was 57,765,347. The receipts from these were, as we have seen, £2,129,965, and the expenditure was £2,041,361. In 1894-95 the corresponding figures were—number of telegrams, 71,589,064; receipts, £2,675,414; and expenditure, £2,800,329. Thus, while the number of telegrams has increased by a little under 24 per cent. and the receipts by a little over 24 per cent., the expenditure has simultaneously increased by no less than 37 per cent. This result is due to various causes, among which the low rate at which Press telegrams are transmitted—practically not more than 4½d. for 100 words—is credited with a loss estimated at £300,000 per annum. 'Moreover,' says the Appendix to the Report, 'new influences inimical (temporarily, if not permanently) to financial success have come into play—namely, the reduction of the tariff in

1885, the increase in the pay of the staff, and the competition of the telephone companies for local traffic.' The loss due to the recent increases in the pay of the staff will be very readily borne by the community, and the general remarks of the late Postmaster-General on this subject will be read with much satisfaction. For the rest there is no little force in the concluding paragraph of the Appendix already quoted:—'The Post Office has to admit a deficit on the working of the telegraphs, but its 71,000,000 telegrams bear testimony to the value of the service which it renders to the public.' "

But there is another paper called the *Sunday Times*, edited by a lady, and on Sept. 1st the readers of that lady's utterances were more or less roused by a furious article against the permanent official:—

"As the complexity of civilization increases, the tendency is to remove power from the so-called representatives of the people, and to place it in the hands of obscure, but omnipotent permanent officials. Demands spring up on every hand for the enlargement of the sphere of Government. No jealousy whatever is felt of the growing power of officials. No fear is entertained by the people of the restraint of personal liberty, which was the bugbear of the philosophic Radicals of the school of John Stuart Mill. . . . A hundred and thirty thousand servants of the State are employed by the Post Office Department alone. These officials not unnaturally use their political power as a lever to exert pressure upon the Government of the day. In the growing power of the bureaucracy is manifest danger to the people of this country, but in no Department of State is the influence of officials so hateful as in the Post Office Department. . . . The present House of Commons is in favour of the change. Its predecessor was of the same mind. . . . The cost of the change is a bagatelle—less than the tenth part of the expenditure on a modern battle-ship, and not more than the amount spent on a single picture, not of the first rank, now in the National Gallery. So far as the public are concerned, there is no opposition of any kind. Material or administrative difficulties do not exist, for a four ounce newspaper is already conveyed for a penny for the same distances and from the same places where, it is alleged, a letter of half-an-ounce cannot be carried for the same money. A copy of *The Times*, weighing four ounces, can be sent to Sydney for 1d. A letter weighing half-an-ounce sent in the same bag and in the same ship, should obviously be sent for the same charge as the newspaper eight times its weight.\* The establishment of Imperial Penny Postage will not involve the employment of an extra train, cart, donkey, steamship, or letter-carrier either here or in the Colonies. The existing machinery of the Empire is ample to cope with the extra work involved. There is nothing in the Postal Union to stop the

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\*The logic here is hardly clear. The proper conclusion to be drawn from the premises is that four ounces of letter should go for a penny.—ED.

way. England is free from any entangling agreement or treaty with foreign Powers which would debar her from corresponding with her own people in the England across the seas at any rate we may choose to fix. Cheap communication is the life and soul of trade, and is the raw material of diffused wealth. If these reasons are not enough to satisfy reasonable beings that some malign and furtive influence is at work to prevent the establishment of Imperial Penny Postage. . . . The time has now come to speak plainly on the subject of Imperial Penny Postage and the action of the permanent officials. Mr. Raikes was appointed Postmaster-General in order to carry it. Mr. Raikes did not carry it, because he was in the hands of able and ambitious men, who object to Imperial Penny Postage, or any other improvement forced upon them from without. The late Sir A. Blackwood defeated and devoured poor Mr. Raikes, and said grace over his meal. Then came Mr. Arnold Morley, who not unnaturally seemed to think that the correspondence of an Empire could be conducted on the principles that conduce to success in the retail hosiery trade. . . . Mr. A. Morley has been succeeded by a gentleman who is neither feeble nor pompous. But his task is hard. As our Yankee cousins would say, the Duke of Norfolk has a hard row to hoe. It is nothing less than to give orders to his own nominal subordinates. Will the blood of the heir of all the Howards rise to the height of this enterprise? Previous Postmasters-General have been content to take orders from their understrappers, and to obey them with the dull fidelity of ignorant men who know their own shortcomings. The public have a right to know the names of the weary Titans who 'run' the Post Office and convert successive Postmasters-General from amiable and respectable politicians to sycophantic and incompetent lackeys, who echo the wishes of their secret masters, and respond like puppets with alacrity to the slightest touch on the wires. . . ."

[To this is added a sort of black list of the secretaries and assistant-secretaries. The secretaries know nothing of their work, and the assistant-secretaries rule them. Who rule the assistant-secretaries is not stated, but ultimately it may prove to be the junior boy clerk.]

This article was followed by another on the 8th September, equally conclusive and equally crushing. In it Madam announced her intention to "hammer away at the brazen panoply of Post Office pedantry until Imperial Penny Postage is accomplished," and further, that she intends to keep a "warm corner for the special benefit of the Post Office Department."

The same issue contained a letter printed probably by inadvertence or else through Madam's failure to see that the writer of it was laughing at her:—

"MADAM,—It is, indeed, a terrible picture which you draw in your leader of last Sunday. We have been, most of us, rather proud

of the Post Office of this country. We were all aware that changes were from time to time desirable, and we were conscious sometimes that they might have been made sooner, but still, upon the whole, we thought we had reason to be thankful. But you have undeceived us, for your article goes to prove that the English Post Office is rotten to the core. You have taken the extreme step of mentioning by name eight leading officials as enemies of the public, and we all presume that you must have good reason for so unusual a course. How is it that such a state of things is possible? Why does not (some member) bring the case before Parliament and move for a Committee on the state of the Post Office? Questions on particular points are all very well, but they will not meet an evil which is evidently very deep-rooted. To think that it should be in the power of permanent officials to override one Postmaster-General after another, year after year, and that such a matter should never have been brought to the light of day before is almost incredible were it not true. From a psychological point of view the matter offers a splendid field of study. What is the object of these malpractices? Are the officials bribed, or do they in any way increase their incomes and improve their prospects by this extraordinary behaviour? If not, what can their object be? How is it that Postmaster-General after Postmaster-General is so weak? Further, assuming that all the recent Postmasters-General have been feeble men, how is it that Parliament also allows itself to be overruled? When Mr. Goschen a few years ago resolved to cheapen postage to the Colonies, he announced the fact in his budget speech. If the present Government wants to introduce Imperial Penny Postage, all it has to do is to get the Chancellor of the Exchequer to include the cost of the scheme in his next Budget, and he can then snap his fingers at feeble Postmasters and bloated officials.—I enclose my card, and am, Madam, yours faithfully, FAIR PLAY.

“Sept., 6, 1895.”

The Controversy has since developed in a new direction. Madam has started a petition to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in favour of the scheme; and, recognising at last that the opposition of the Colonies is the leading obstacle to Imperial Penny Postage, she now proposes to send Lord Dufferin on a mission of persuasion to the antipodes.

K. T. L.

## *After Office Hours.*

### **On Cultivating our Surfaces.**

IN an age and in a society where the honest man is the ideal man, it savours perhaps of priggishness and of paradox to enter a plea for the individual who pays some slight regard to qualities which the honest man of this nineteenth century prides himself on being without. The exaggerated deference paid to honesty and truth is one of the many baneful legacies we owe to the late Mr. Thomas Carlyle. He spent his life growling at and hating a nation and a people in his books, apart from whom in his lifetime he was never happy. In this particular he was manifestly insincere, even dishonest; as the quack doctors say he suffered without knowing it: he was a liar in spite of himself. How much a little healthy humbug would have done for Carlyle, and how much it would have added to the attractiveness of his books, which live now mainly by their power and force, and scarcely at all by any charm that they possess! When I speak of healthy humbug as a desirable quality what I mean is, truth tempered by untruth, not untruth tempered by truth, for in this distinction lies much. Let me illustrate my meaning by a few examples taken from one's experiences on travel. From the point of view of a tourist, who seeks after the beautiful in Nature and in Art, Germany is more interesting on a holiday than France. But the want of what I will call "surface qualities" in the Germans, makes a tour in their country often very uncomfortable, and sometimes quite unsupportable. They are not nice in the little politenesses, attentions, and graces which oil the wheels on the journey of an awkward foreigner. And the officials at the railway stations, with whom of course the tourist has the most to do, are the worst of all offenders. They regard the traveller much as one of their own officers regards a raw recruit, as a man to be bullied into compliance with the regulations. In France, at least such is my experience, one scarcely meets with any annoyances of the kind. There is very little irritating officialism; the officials talk softly with you rather than at you, and with a "courtly foreign grace" which in France is common to both aristocrat and plebeian. The language itself is an indication how much attention has been paid by the nation as a whole to the surface of life. Much of it is probably humbug, but my point is that it is none the worse for being so, if it achieves its end and increases the sum

total of good temper in a naturally irritable world. And I draw just the same distinction between Scotland and some parts of England, as compared with Ireland for travelling purposes. No doubt Scotland, both historically and in the matter of natural scenery, is more interesting to the traveller than Ireland, but Ireland, for the reasons I have given in the case of France, is the land for my money. And the same argument applies to all the relations of men and women with each other. I speak especially of the mere casual relations of life, because I am quite willing to admit that in the more permanent ones, the Celtic temperament is less successful than that of the Teuton or the Saxon. It is on behalf of these casual relations that I am talking. Our education is so often directed solely to preparing us for the more serious business of life, that we forget how large a portion of our existence is concerned with the superficialities. And we grow ponderous and dull because we are possessed by that terribly-one-sided statement of Longfellow's that "life is real, life is earnest." We have no surface qualities. We mean everything we say and say everything we mean. Yet all the time everything which we connect with charm in personal character is more or less allied to the superficial. We respect and admire, for example, constancy, whether in opinion or in the ordinary relations of life, but who can deny that fickleness and insincerity, when they have no taint of cruelty about them, charm us, especially when they are accompanied by a delicate expression of the surface qualities. Fickleness means that the possessor is peculiarly sensitive to the attractions of the surface; he does not or he cannot dive very deeply, but he has frequently a light touch which prevails, where more serious qualities are ineffective. A certain lady once said to a man of this temperament, who had for the moment fallen seriously in love with her, "So long as you were evidently insincere and a humbug I thought you were the most delightful of men, I could have lived in your society for ever; but now that you have succeeded in becoming sincere you are insupportable, and you must excuse me gaping. It is terrible to think of you experiencing such a perversion of your true character: I could not endure you for a moment in such circumstances." And this recollection calls up to my mind the memory of an old friend whom I have lately lost. Up to the date of a grievous disappointment many years ago, he had been of a quite opposite temperament to that which I have labelled as fickle. To use a common expression, the experience for the time completely floored him. But in the end he came out of it the most delightful and attractive man it has ever been my fortune to meet in life. In his sentimental youth he had appeared as a rather ordinary commonplace sort of man, without any particular individuality in his point of view. Love, as it does with so many men, made him appear even more commonplace than he actually was, and the influence of women over him, as it also so often is with men whose characters are not yet formed, was a bad influence. Sincerity was his true note, but with his disappointment it got buried beneath,



under another self, which was a veneer of himself, and deeper than ever plummet sounded lay all that he might have been. He always said that it was a discovery of his true self, that his previous sincerity had been a mistake, that it had been the one untrue thing about him, and that the only success he had met with in life had come since he had taken to be simply a trifier with men and things. Most people liked him at once, because as he modestly said his charm was all on the surface, and he never took them seriously. Unlike most disappointed men, however, he was intensely interested in human life, and his disappointment, so far from taking the idiotic form of hating an entire sex, had enabled him, as he would say in his paradoxical way, to feel to its fullest extent the charm of sex. To that he was never blind; it affected his whole career, though he never seriously cared for anybody again. He was so interested in men and women regarded as separate individuals that it was difficult to get him to take any but a strictly personal view of any question. For instance, he was the most thorough Gladstonian I have ever come across. His whole habit of thought was a Toryism of the most pronounced kind, when he could be induced to discuss questions on their merits, but in presence of the personal he seemed to regard mere questions, bills, and political reforms, as of less importance to the English people than the development and manifestation of a great personality whenever it pleased God to send one to them. Something in Gladstone charmed him, possibly it was the sincerity in the statesman which his admirer had lost, which took his fancy; from his own account he recognized in Gladstone genius, resource, and unbounded sympathy, and the wish of his heart was to see him finish off his great career artistically. He saw in the Home Rule policy, not a scheme for curing the wrongs of a nation, still less a measure for the dismemberment of an Empire, but the means by which a great man could round off and complete a career. "Supposing," he used to say, "we were to lose India, or to break up the Empire through Gladstone's policy, is that a large price to pay for the possession of so rare a gift as a rich and full personality like Gladstone's?" In the Home Rule policy especially he saw that Gladstone had himself realized, with the instinct of an artist, that to give Ireland self-government would be in artistic agreement with the greater part of his political life and his previous attempts to do justice to the sister country. So in political argument, if such it could be called with him, my friend never said, "Shall we grant Ireland self-government?" He could never enter into that point of view. His question always was: "Shall we not grant our greatest man this wish of his old age? Don't we owe him something for having made politics so interesting for fifty years? Look how this policy brings out the old man at his very best. What is a trumpery island like Ireland to England, compared to what England possesses in Gladstone? Is it India or the Colonies, or Manchester or Liverpool, or London that I am most proud of when England is mentioned? No, it is Shakespeare and Milton, Cromwell and Chatham, Newton and Bacon, who bring

the blush of pride to my cheeks when I am asked to think of my country. Affairs and politics and questions are simply the instruments used for the development of great personalities, the one thing worth preserving in this world is genius." Just in this same way he used to defend the worst crimes of the first Napoleon, and could never be induced to see that the French had paid too high a price for the possession of their genius. To all these objections he would answer that if his contemporaries disliked him, they had some reason for doing so, because he had made them so uncomfortable; but for the generations which followed to attack him was the basest ingratitude, because he had made the reading of history so intensely interesting to them. Naturally this method led him into hopeless logical fallacies, but with much of a woman's unreasonableness, and with all her charm he turned them against you rather than against himself. He was something of a Bohemian, and was certainly a great deal more sensitive to errors of taste and of grammar, than he was to offences against the moral code. I shall not soon forget the story of his last hours, as told me by his old housekeeper who, in his illness, constituted herself his nurse also. The story went against herself and she knew it, and she told me she should always regard herself as responsible for his death. He was dying by inches of an incurable disease, and on the last evening when he was apparently hovering between life and death, he suddenly woke up and asked his nurse feebly what was the time; she promptly said kindly, but painfully to so sensitive a man, "Height a'clock in the hevening, Sir." His answer was at first only a groan, but it was not the expression of any sense of boredom or of weariness of life. It was something else which troubled him. "Ann, your h's are killing me!" were his last words, for he never spoke again. "Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it," said one of his friends. I do not so read his character. What might have almost killed him I think was the consciousness of the error in good taste that he had committed, by noticing in public a grammatical error. It was the one act of bad taste in his life, and it was physical weakness which had inspired it. "He never mentioned them before in all his life," was his housekeeper's pathetic remark to me, and I know that he had to endure much.

He had lost much of his faith in the value of what are called the realities of life, and this led him on more than ever to live for the sake of the superficialities. For even the most cynical and pessimistic among us *must* live for something. He perhaps at times over-accentuated the importance of "the surface," but if he did so, it was to bring out into stronger relief the want of beauty, of interest, and of charm in a life which has altogether neglected the surface. At any rate he is to me a sort of ideal type of a nice man. If I had been a woman I would not have cared to be his lover or his wife, nor would I have cared to be his partner in any undertaking which required readiness, decision, long views of life, and an infinite capacity to take pains. But he made a delightful

holiday companion and a charming friend. We must take people according to what they themselves aspire to be, and he certainly aimed at being nothing more. His death eclipsed the gaiety of one or two clubs and many drawing-rooms, and many of his more unfortunate brethren became the poorer at the end of each financial year. He never did anything in particular so far as I know, except to lubricate the wheels of life for everybody with whom he came into contact. Yet I believe he spoke quite falsely when he said that insincerity was his true note, because there is no doubt that his true "buried life," to use Matthew Arnold's phrase, was a sincerity of the deepest kind, and that but for his disappointment he would have followed it out to its bitter end, and have finished off his career perhaps as a dull paterfamilias with his heart in so-called realities. He would have been regarded by all his neighbours as a success, and have been avoided by them at their dinner tables. There was no doubt to all who knew my friend intimately, that his character at one time contained potentialities in that direction. He somehow got off the line, cultivated insincerity with something of his old earnestness, so that perhaps it was this very sincerity in his trifling which attracted us so much.

I believe that I have been really preaching a sermon and I must ask my reader's forgiveness. I am writing this in the very heart of the mountains, where the vastness of the surroundings throws into insignificance what it is our habit and conceit to speak of as "the realities of life." "The spirit of the mountain" is the spirit of the dreamer and of the brooder, and in my case contact with it so far from deepening my sense of the importance of these realities distinctly minimises them from my point of view. What if the superficialities are not after all the true realities! I do not know, but my present temper in this most glorious country is an intense appreciation of the beauty of form and of the appearances of things, and a consciousness ever present to me in each hotel that I visit, that I love my fellows best when they don't take themselves or me too seriously, and when they have paid some slight attention to the cultivation of the surface.

Zermatt.

E. B.

## St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

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### The Postmaster-General has Resigned. Long Live the Postmaster-General.

THE resignation of Lord Rosebery's Government has deprived us of a chief who as time goes on cannot fail to be recognized as having been one of the ablest and best of postal administrators. The public will benefit by, even if they do not fully understand, his steady effort to adapt the Postal Service to its real work, and the general body of the staff will come to know that no Postmaster-General has been more anxious to improve their condition, or has taken more personal trouble to investigate every allegation of grievance or hardship. The general feeling of those who knew him personally is perhaps best summed up in the wish that when next a Liberal Government takes office Mr. Arnold Morley may be its Postmaster-General.

On the 5th July letters patent were passed under the great seal appointing the Duke of Norfolk to be Postmaster-General. Our new chief is Premier Duke and Premier Earl, Earl Marshal and hereditary Marshal of England, the holder of eight peerages, and a Knight of the Garter. He was born in 1847, and is in his 48th year. He is a London County Councillor and Mayor Elect of Sheffield. His acceptance of so toilsome and harassing an office as that of Postmaster-General in addition to the duties and responsibilities of his high station shows a zeal in the public service which will, we trust, meet with a response in the efforts of all ranks in the Post Office.

### The Postmaster-General's Forty-first Report.

THE Report for the year 1894-5 contains about twenty pages more than any of its predecessors, and to the reader who is genuinely interested in Postal administration these additional pages are perhaps the most interesting. In the body of the report is included a summary statement of the pay and other conditions of employment of the general body of the established staff, and among the appendices there are an outline of the development of the

Telegraph Service since the transfer and a statement of the amount of correspondence exchanged with foreign countries and the colonies. Both of these additions might even have been increased with advantage. We should have been glad to see an analytical statement showing exactly how those £10,000,000 were expended which have ever since the transfer of the telegraphs been the reproach of the telegraph system. We should also like to have the table of correspondence made, if possible, a comparative one, showing the fluctuations in the postal tides for a number of years. Then we should have been able to measure the full significance of the fact that to such countries as Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, and Portugal we send fewer letters than we receive from them, while to all others and to our colonies we send more than we receive. Those who measure the prosperity of trade by the flow of circulars will be glad to learn that we send more circulars, samples, patterns, and newspapers than we receive to every part of the known world.

The newspapers have pretty generally pronounced this report to be dull, chiefly because we have no stories of curious addresses and the like. Even the chirping of our old friend the Tomtit, that has for so many years made an unauthorized use of letterbox as a nursery, is hushed. If we reckon that usually these stories have furnished three paragraphs on the average to every newspaper in the kingdom, we shall easily see how great has been the pecuniary loss of the critics of the report. No wonder that they find it dull. They also deride a certain satisfaction that may here and there be detected in the description of the vast amount of the ordinary work of the Department which has been successfully dealt with. Where, they say, are your great reforms which should form the chief glory of the postal administrator? A few small items such as the permitted use of private postcards, which has led to an increase of 25 per cent. in those articles, free redirection for circulars, and the erection of the telephone trunk lines, cannot satisfy the postal epicure of modern times, who is ever craving for some new dainty. It is of no avail that the Post Office carries with increasing rapidity and efficiency 45 letters a year for every person in the United Kingdom, while some postal specialist, one possibly in a hundred, is denied the special and peculiar combination of stationery and postage stamps for which his soul craves.

### The Estimates.

THESE were discussed in the House on the 30th August, and occupied a space of four hours, which, apparently, in Mr. Balfour's opinion, was too much. Mr. Hanbury, Secretary to the Treasury, who represents the Post Office in the Commons, answered the various points raised. He explained that, though we paid for the carriage of mails by sea a higher rate than the "ship rate," we have advantages in return, and that one advantage is that ships under contract start at fixed times convenient to the Post Office,

maintain a certain fixed speed, and call regularly at fixed ports. He also explained that there would be no advantage in keeping a capital account for post office buildings because expenditure under this head was not an exceptional expenditure but one which was always going on year after year. He further explained that the absence of a parcel post to the United States was due to the arrangements in force in the States, and that the delay in conducting negotiations for a parcel post with Japan was caused by the distance of that country from England. He was in favour of a Parliamentary committee to consider the Australian Mail contracts, and he promised that the new telegraph code should be very carefully considered before being adopted. As to Imperial Penny Postage, he said that the colonies were the great stumbling block to the scheme. What he would call the sentimental argument was not one to be despised, it was an important one; but when the colonies were not willing to have this kind of communication with the mother country it fell to the ground. Certainly the feeling in the Australian colonies was by no means in favour of the scheme, but whether that was so or not, there was an agreement with Australia when those colonies came into the Postal Union that there should be no alteration in the postal rates until a date two or three years from the present time.

### **The Australian Postal Conference at Hobart.**

A MEETING of representatives of the Post Offices of the various Colonies of Australasia appears to have become a regular annual event; and the report of the Conference held last February at Hobart shows the value of such a meeting, pending the union of the Colonies in one great Dominion of Australia with a federal Postmaster General to consolidate and supervise the postal interests of the whole continent.

The chief subjects discussed at the Conference were (1) Cable Guarantees, (2) the proposed Canadian-Australian Mail Service and Cable, and (3) the Federal Mail Service.

The finances of the Colonies are in such a bad state that it is no wonder if some of them desire to be relieved of the contributions which they have to make in order to bring up the receipts of the Cable Companies to the guaranteed amount. Victoria threatened at Hobart to withdraw from the guarantee to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., but the Company made a considerable concession, and a new agreement with them was finally made for five years. There seems also to be a good prospect of Queensland joining the other Colonies in the guarantee, and so lightening their contributions to any deficit.

As to the proposed Mail Service and Telegraph Cable in the Pacific, the Conference contented itself with wishing well to the schemes in formal resolutions and severely criticising them in discussion. It is pretty clear that at present the Colonies won't spend any more money in that direction.

The resolution in which the Conference expressed its grudging acquiescence in the terms secured by the Imperial Post Office when arranging to prolong for two years the existing mail service was evidently meant to convey the impression that the colonies felt they had been badly treated, and that they would stand no nonsense in future; but the report of the discussion shows that the resolution was based largely on misconception, and that the delegates of several colonies, while voting for it, took a much juster and more enlightened view of the circumstances. It seems a pity that when so important a matter as the future arrangement of the mail service between Europe and Australia is under discussion, a representative of the Imperial Post Office cannot be present. Half-an hour's conversation would do more to remove misunderstanding and to give a true idea of the situation than months of correspondence.

An interesting debate took place on Imperial Penny Postage. The delegates were firmly opposed to the proposal, but they would evidently like, as soon as they can afford it, to have the rate reduced from  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2d.

Recommendations on a great number of smaller points made by a committee of permanent heads of departments were adopted by the Conference, as was also the report of a special committee appointed to draft regulations for the erection and laying of electric light wires. The next Conference is to be held at Melbourne.

### The American Mails again.

WE have recently had a recrudescence of the perennial controversy about the American Mails. This time it was Mr. Smalley, the New York correspondent of the *Times* who began it by calling attention to two or three instances in which mails from this country might have reached the United States earlier by the German or American steamers viâ Southampton than by the ordinary mail steamers viâ Queenstown. The delay was due, said he, to the British Post Office having "tied its hands" by contracts with the White Star and Cunard Companies. Thus "the intercourse of two continents is obstructed in the interest of two steamship companies." Of course this powerful advocacy delighted the representatives of Southampton, who joined vigorously in the attack on the Post Office.

On the other side there have been some moderately expressed but weighty letters from Dr. Ginsberg, who seems to know almost as much about the performances of mail steamers as about Hebrew idioms. He mentioned one interesting fact, viz., that the express steamers of the German lines, on being withdrawn from the New York service during the winter months, are engaged in "yachting" in the Mediterranean. If they do go westward from Southampton during the off season it is only to get to New York to pick up passengers for a cruise to the Levant. "How," he asks, "would the business man like to be told that his correspondence must wait until the mail boats had finished their pleasure trips?"

### Australian Mails.

PARLIAMENT has approved the contracts made with the P. & O. and Orient Companies for the conveyance of Australian Mails until January, 1898. The general conditions of the contracts were explained in a former number of the magazine. One result of the new arrangement will be that the contracts with British companies for the conveyance of mails to Australia, India, and the Far East will terminate simultaneously on the 31st of January, 1898. Preparations for making new contracts for all these services are in progress, under the supervision of a committee, consisting of representatives from the Treasury, Colonial Office, India Office, and Post Office, with the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., as chairman. Mr. Jackson was Financial Secretary to the Treasury when the present contracts were made.

### French Parcels.

A SUPPLEMENTARY Parcel Post Convention with France has recently been ratified. The document is not, it must be confessed, one which he who runs may read; and it seems to have considerably mystified the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*. That accomplished lady explained, on the publication of the convention in the *Journal Officiel*, that it was "a happy infringement on the Méline tariffs." Its provisions she lucidly summarized as follows: "A parcel weighing 20 pounds and valued at £20 may be sent by post from France to England, or *vice versa*. The postage, exclusive of the duty to be paid on the parcel, and the proportional premium of insurance at the rate of 2d. for goods appraised at £12 or fraction of £12, will be 2d.; but there will be an additional English tax for insurance at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per value of £12 or the fraction of £12, and a fixed duty of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per parcel." One person on the strength of this thought he could send a 20 lb. parcel to France for 2d.; but even he was not certain about the insurance fee.

The Convention has really nothing to do with postage proper. It merely provides for the insurance of parcels sent by Parcel Post between the two countries. The fee will be 5d. for sums not over, £12, and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. for sums between £12 and £20. The Convention, it may be added, has not yet come into operation.

### Magazine Rates.

THE following extract from a letter which appeared in the *Times* of the 5th September shows how magazines are dealt with in the United States Post Office and here:—

"The public is not probably generally aware that, owing to the action, or inaction, of our Post Office, a permanent handicap of from 30 per cent. to 50 per cent. is placed upon all British serial literature in its competition with literature of the same class produced in the United States. In the United States there exists a system of postage for



what is called second-class postage matter. Serial publications registered as second-class matter are carried through the post at the rate of 1c. per lb. The sender is required to wrapper, address, and take to the despatching depôt the parcel to be carried, and magazines for each destination must be separately enclosed.

"Thus 100 copies of *Harper's Magazine* destined for Boston must be conveyed to the depôt in New York addressed and enclosed in a suitable package. The package is weighed, and is carried by weight at the rate above mentioned—viz., 1c. per lb.

"In the United Kingdom the postage payable on serials varies from 25 per cent. to as much as 50 per cent. on the published price of the work—a rate which is, of course, prohibitive. Magazines in this country are as a rule despatched to the distributing agents through the parcel-carrying companies, and the Post Office have nothing whatever to do with them.

"The result of this difference between the facilities offered in the United States on the one hand, and in the United Kingdom on the other, may be concisely stated as follows:—The publisher of a quarter-dollar magazine in America can, and does, deal directly with his customers. He can, and does, receive a quarter of a dollar in cash, paid before delivery. In the United Kingdom the publisher of a 1s. magazine is absolutely unable to deal direct with his customers. Instead of receiving 1s. net before delivery, he is obliged to accept from 6½d. to 7d. one month, or more, after delivery.

"It will thus be seen that the American publisher can either put nearly 50 per cent. more value into his book without diminishing his profits, or can add such a percentage to his profits without diminishing the quality of his publication.

"The Post Office has over and over again been urged to make some concessions to British publishers in this matter, but has invariably declined to make the smallest improvement. The introduction of a system of second-class postage in this country would be easy, and under proper regulation should be profitable to the Post Office. The whole cost of sorting and conveying to the despatching-office or railway-station would be borne by the publisher.

"A ½d. per lb. would amply cover the cost of carriage, while a further ½d. per package should more than cover the cost of delivery, which, though not always granted in the United States, would be required here."

\* \* \*

WITH regard to this letter it may be remarked that, if we may judge from the last United States report, the rate charged for magazines is one of the principal reasons why the American Post Office does not pay its expenses (see page 278). Moreover, in this country we rely on private agency to distribute periodical literature, and strong opposition to such a proposal would probably be offered, not only by newsagents great and small, but also by economists like Mr. Goschen, who hold that the state should not undertake work which private enterprise can perform.

Moreover, to read this letter one would suppose that, were it not for the Post Office, publishers would get full price for their books and magazines, whereas nothing can be further from the fact. By the almost universal custom of the trade a 1s. book or magazine can be bought anywhere in our great towns for 9d., and assuming the correctness of the statement that the publisher gets 6½d. out of this, it is clear that the real cost of distribution through the newsagents is 27½ per cent. It may be open to question whether any other important commodity is distributed at so cheap a rate.

### The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

OUT of the passion for collecting stamps there has arisen a very singular traffic, a traffic having a touch of humour in it, but a traffic which, if not downright fraudulent, is at any rate decidedly "shady." It consists in the manufacture and issue of what are called "speculative stamps," and the manner of it is in this wise. All over the world, in India, Africa, South America, and the Pacific, there are scattered a multitude of small independent or semi-independent states. The wily speculator approaches the ruler of one of these states (say Ramputtal, a patch of 600 square miles in the forests of Malaya), and arranges for him to issue a limited supply of a special new stamp. He pays the ruler handsomely, takes over the stock of stamps, and proceeds to advertise and sell them to collectors, realizing a large profit out of the transaction. Of course the chief attraction of a stamp to a philatelist is its scarcity. Says A to B, "Have you got the new four-cotch blue of Ramputtal?" This stimulates B to put himself on an equality with A by getting one at all costs, for philately is regardless of expense.

Now this state of affairs is very painful and very wrong, and it is not surprising that a society has been formed to suppress it, consisting no doubt of people with fine collections, who are constantly being taunted for not having a specimen of one or other of these rubbishy issues. It is called the "Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps." Its *modus operandi* is to issue a circular from time to time, giving lists of recent speculative issues, and warning everybody against them. Now, we sympathise with them very much in their trouble; but we have grave doubts whether this course is not, to use a well-known phrase, "calculated to defeat rather than promote the object in view." Says A to B, "What brutes these speculators are! Have you seen the last list issued by the S. S. S. S.?" "Yes," says B; "the wretches ought to be hung; but," he adds with conscious pride, "*I've got specimens of everything in the list myself.*"

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, hearing that the "British Inland Mail" was issuing stamps in Madagascar, sent their agent a cheque, asking for a supply. Here is his answer, which is

published by the Society as a warning, but we ask whether it is not rather calculated to whet the appetite of the collector of rarities than otherwise.

"BRITISH CONSULATE,

"TAMATAVE, 18th May, 1895.

"MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & CO.,

"IPSWICH, ENGLAND.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, with cheque enclosed.

"In reply, I beg to inform you that the 'British Inland Mail' now running between Antananarivo and Vatomandry, a port on the south-east coast of this Island, is not an official postal service at all, but a private speculation undertaken by a syndicate of gentlemen residing at Antananarivo, who, in order to facilitate matters, have arranged this Mail Service, and issued the stamps to which your letter refers.

"I may also inform you that the Malagasy Government has no postal service at all, and since the departure of the French from the capital, there has not been any communication to and from the coast, save by special couriers or the private Mail in question.

"Under the circumstances, I have not ventured to make the purchase you required. I have, however, kept the cheque in case you should still want the stamps, but I must state that communication between this and Vatomandry, or any part of Madagascar, is only by sea, and many days and even weeks sometimes elapse before a safe opportunity offers. By the time your reply reaches me I am afraid that the French will be very near Antananarivo, and the 'British Inland Mail' will be a thing of the past.

"I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"(Signed) ANATOLE SAUZIER."

### Civil Service Insurance.

THE *Saturday Review* in a recent article on "Life Insurance as an Investment," and dealing more particularly with "Simple" and "Compound" Bonuses, has the following on the subject of Civil Service Insurance:—

"The North British and Mercantile Insurance Company was established in 1809, and has always borne a high character. Unusual interest attaches to the quinquennial investigation due at the end of the present year, on account of the exceptional arrangement entered into nearly five years ago with the Civil Service Insurance Society. That arrangement was doubtless regarded by the contracting parties as mutually beneficial. As to the benefit on the side of the civil servants there can at least be no question. They have to thank their astute colleagues on the council of their society that they are now enabled to insure their lives in one of the

best offices in the world at rates fifteen per cent. less than those demanded from ordinary policyholders, to say nothing of certain minor advantages. Whether the directors of the company proved themselves equally skilful as negotiators is not quite so certain. It is true that they have obtained upwards of three millions of additional business, and that the only item of expense on their side is the extra clerical work, which probably does not cost more than one per cent. of the amount the civil servants pay over. Thus the total cost of the arrangement may be put at sixteen per cent. of the additional premium income ; and, bearing in mind that civil servants are a decidedly healthy class, the compact may so far be regarded as a fair one. The directors could scarcely be expected to foresee the phenomenal rise which has recently taken place in the prices of first-class securities, although this circumstance may, as time goes on, cause them some embarrassment in investing their largely increased premium income. But there is another point on which, as it seems to us, the civil servants distinctly "scored off" the directors. They succeeded in obtaining similar conditions for endowment insurances to those agreed upon for policies for the whole term of life ; and the result in the case of an endowment insurance for a short term is particularly favourable. The company would reply, we presume, that such policies are not often wanted by civil servants. Perhaps not ; but for those who do want them we venture to assert that there is no more profitable investment to be met with in the whole range of life insurance practice."

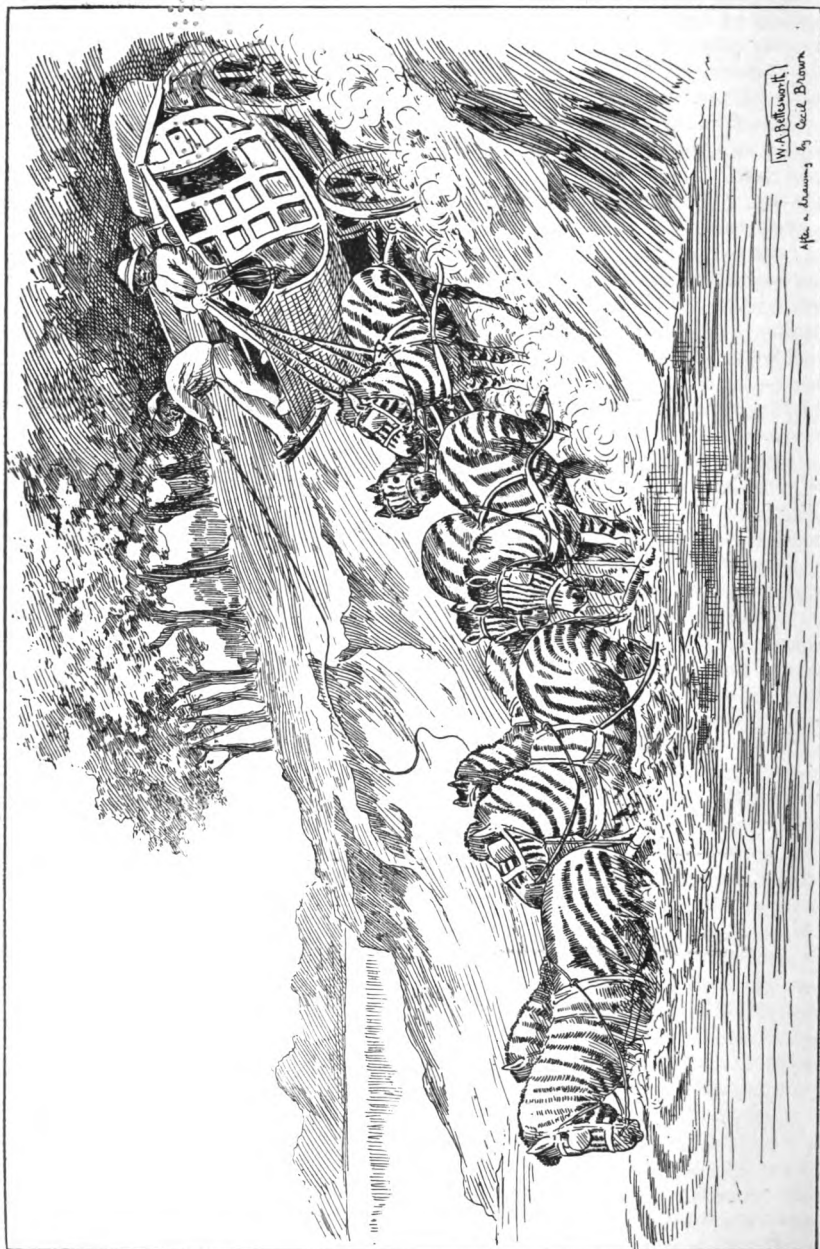
Comparing the North British and the Royal Insurance Companies—both proprietary concerns of long standing and established repute, each of them having an extensive business in both fire and life departments, and each conducted with prudence and ability, the writer points out that through the "excessive greed" of the shareholders of the Royal, that company is not so liberal in the matter of bonuses as the North British, and concludes as follows :—

"Curiously enough, this company (the Royal), which doubtless cast jealous eyes on the North British capture of the whole of the Civil Service business, has itself accommodated poor-law officers with a perpetual discount of fifteen per cent. But, for the reasons we have given, the concession is less valuable than that secured by the Civil Service Insurance Society : and this fact is well worth the attention of the employés of Her Majesty's Post Office, to whom, if we are not greatly misinformed, the Royal Insurance Company has for some time past been making affectionate overtures."

### The Use of Coast Communications.

ON Wednesday Evening, the 24th July, a telephonic message was received at the Post Office, Castletown, Isle of Man, from Langness Lighthouse, stating that a small boat containing two or three young boys was in very great danger off Langness, and was being rapidly carried out to sea by the strong current then running.

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TEAM OF ZEBRAS DRAWING A MAIL-COACH.

[To face page 48.]

They were making signals of distress, and urgent appeals were made for the lifeboat to be despatched. The Sub-Postmaster, Mr. T. H. Kinvig, immediately proceeded to the quay, and lost no time in finding Mr. F. Cleator, the coxswain of the lifeboat. Mr. Cleator at once decided that in order to save the time which would be occupied in getting out, dragging, and launching the lifeboat, it would be better to take one of the harbour boats, which accordingly he did, and was accompanied by Joseph Hudson, William Wilkinson, and George Cooil; but, finding they were a man short, the coxswain called out for a volunteer, when the Postmaster at once took the vacant oar, and in less than five minutes after the receipt of the message they were on their way to the scene of what was thought would prove a disastrous accident. Owing to the able manner in which the coxswain steered and directed his crew, they passed safely through the heavy and dangerous sea along the Scranes, but they got thoroughly drenched. It now became dark, and after hailing the lighthouse for directions, they went out to sea in a south-easterly course, and were agreeably surprised on receiving an answering call from what proved to be the drifting boat in company of another boat, which two of the lightkeepers had courageously manned, and which had arrived first at the drifting boat. The boats kept together, and the whole party landed safely on Langness about ten o'clock, and were very hospitably entertained by the principal lightkeeper. The mother of two of the boys, and the sister of the other were there in an agony of suspense, and accorded them a sincere welcome. The Castletown boat returned to the harbour about midnight, and brought the drifting boat with it. Great credit is due to Mr. Kinvig for his promptitude in delivering the message, and also for his plucky conduct in joining the boat-crew.

### The Mashonaland Mail.

THE task of carrying the mails in our recently-acquired possession in South Africa (says the *Pall Mall Budget*), is one which, owing to the roughness of much of the country, and more especially the numerous ailments to which horseflesh in those countries is subject, is of great difficulty. Immediately after the occupation of Mashonaland by the Chartered Company, the mails were carried by a small body of police. These men were stationed at long intervals on the road from Fort Salisbury to Bechuanaland. They were provided with saddle-horses and also pack-horses on which the mail was carried, and which was led by the mounted policemen. At whatever time the mail reached a station it was bound to be forwarded immediately; and as the track was by no means good, and moreover not altogether free from the visits of lions, the man whose turn of duty fell on a dark night had rather more excitement than falls to the lot of the postman in more civilised countries. Frequently one of the horses would be suddenly attacked by horse-sickness and fall dead on the road, and sometimes the stage had to be finished on foot. This method of carrying the post is, of course, only possible

when the mail is small, but, owing to the facility with which it can be organised, is peculiarly adapted to a new country where a wheeled cart cannot be driven at any speed owing to the roughness of the track, and is more difficult to work in a country where the scarcity of horses and mules is chronic.



SADDLE AND PACK HORSES FOR CARRYING MAILS IN MASHONALAND.

At present there is a mail route worked partly by oxen, partly by mules, from Vryburgh to Palapye, from which place stores and mails are forwarded to Buluwayo.

The other mail route to Mashonaland and Matabeleland is through the Transvaal from Pretoria, through Nylstroom, Pietersburgh, and Tuli, by mule coach; and last year the Chartered Company made a contract by which the primitive ox-cart from Tuli to Salisbury, which superseded the mounted policeman, was in turn replaced by mule coach.

Most of the country through which the route lies is very unhealthy for mules, and in the wet season, out of about sixty mules working the line, over thirty have been lost in the course of a month. This excessive mortality has, of course, enormously increased the expenses, and from time to time it has been pointed out that the wild zebra is not subject to horse-sickness or the bite of the tsetse-fly. This fact has at last been turned to account, and some full-grown zebras having been caught, were last year broken to harness, after some trouble, and trained to run in a team. They were extremely difficult to inspan, kicking and biting vigorously; but once in harness they became quite quiet, and pulled fairly well, though at first, owing to their having no mouths, a pair of mules had to be used as leaders. Whether this experiment will prove successful commercially remains to be seen, but at any rate it is of great interest to all lovers of natural history. The drawing represents the coach crossing the Limpopo, not far from Fort Tuli.



### "Times" v. Central News.

THE writ has been issued in an important action, the *Times v. the Central News, Limited*. The cause of action arises out of the cablegrams supplied, upon a verbal agreement to the *Times*, by the defendant Company during the progress of the recent war between China and Japan. The plaintiffs, by their statements of claim, say that the Central News undertook, at an agreed rate per line, to furnish them with cablegrams from their correspondents in China and Japan, and that, believing such cablegrams as were supplied them to be copies of original cablegrams received by the defendant Company, they were published in the *Times*. The copies so supplied, it is alleged, were not true or substantial copies, but were in some cases entirely fabricated and concocted by or on behalf of the defendants, and in other cases were largely altered. The defence is a denial *in toto* of the allegations.

### Telephones and Talk.

TELEPHONES one day formed the staple of discussion in the Mechanical Science Section of the British Association meeting at Ipswich. Some lessons in telephony were deduced by Mr. A. R. Bennett from the fact that the development of telephonic communication in the United Kingdom is inferior to that which has been attained in many foreign countries. Why this is so, he said, may best be discovered by ascertaining by what means, technical or economical, those nations which have most conspicuously outstripped us have acquired their superiority. A country may most properly be said to be well telephoned when its smaller towns and villages enjoy facilities. France, Russia, and Portugal all possess good exchanges in their capitals, but are nevertheless badly telephoned, since their smaller towns and villages are excluded from participating in the service. On the other hand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Denmark, and Finland are well-telephoned countries, since not only their chief towns but their villages and even hamlets are provided with communication. Telephonic development is proportional to the prevalence of the following features:—(1) Low rates; (2) local management of exchanges; (3) facilities for rural intercourse; (4) competition. On enquiring in what manner circumstances differ so greatly in the United Kingdom as to preclude the possibility of small towns and rural communities sharing in telephonic communication, it appears that the inelasticity of the prevalent system of tariffs, which was originally invented for towns, is chiefly to blame. In towns distances are short, and subscribers, if the switch rooms are properly distributed, have seldom to pay more than the unit charge; but in country districts distances of several miles must often intervene between the subscriber and switch-room, and as the annual rental increases rapidly with the distance, the charges become piled up by the extra mileage beyond the means of the vast majority of the people. What is wanted is the application of the Austrian

system of tariffs, under which all subscribers, whatever their distance from the switch-room, are put on an equality as regards annual subscription, the only difference being in the first payment made, which varies with the length of line required. The technical features of the Continental systems are, as a rule, best where the tariffs are lowest and the extension of the communication greatest.

The development of the telephonic service in agricultural districts was advocated by Major-General Webber, C.B., R.E. On April 20th, 1895, the *Times* published a letter from the author on the subject, in which attention was drawn to the probability that the telephone, as well as light railways, might be beneficial to rural districts. He now exhibited a map of Suffolk, in which every town, village, or hamlet where a post office was situated was marked with a blue disc. At each of these he suggested that a telephone call-office should be established, and at 29 towns it was proposed that there should be telephone exchanges. It was not proposed that these lines should be constructed with so costly material as that used by the Post Office. If carried out by the County Council the whole of the work could be tendered for, and the poles supplied locally, and very little special labour would be required. The suggested charge for a "talk" was 2d. within one exchange area, 3d. beyond and inside the county.

### The Lamp of Truth at Leicester.

*Cassius*—Do you confess so much? Give me your hand.

*Brutus*—And my heart too.

[As our readers know, we do not believe in testimonialism as practised at most offices. Generally speaking, it implies no particular respect for the presentee. It merely means that the person starting the testimonial thinks that that is the proper thing to do, and that the rank and file feel in some subtle manner that it will be better for them if they give. It begins in insincerity, and ends with a meeting in which insincerity is the predominating note. Still, there are exceptions, and we print the following account of some recent proceedings at Leicester because there was a breezy candour about the whole which is most refreshing. We believe that this is the first time on record that a postmaster has been known to admit to his men that he may have made mistakes.]

**M**R. W. R. LEAK, chief clerk, in making the presentation, said he was sorry they had not been able to obtain something more valuable, but Post Office servants were not paid such exorbitant salaries as would enable them to be lavish in their expenditure even in procuring necessities for themselves. He hoped, however, that what they had been able to purchase would be accepted, not for the intrinsic value of the articles themselves, but as showing the good feeling which subsisted between Mr. Phillipson and the staff during his comparatively short stay at Leicester. Although he had only





W. R. LEAK  
(Leicester).



A. J. FLEWELL  
(Bristol).



J. N. FOOT  
(Plymouth).



T. CARTLIDGE  
(Leeds).



W. REID  
(Glasgow).



H. WALTON  
(Newcastle-on-Tyne)



G. WOOD  
(Aberdeen).



P. PROUDFOOT  
(la'e Dundee).



W. B. SARGEANT  
(Gravesend).

❧ SOME CHIEF CLERKS. ❧

been with them a little over three years, during that time more improvements had been effected in the administration of the Post Office than during all the rest of his (Mr. Leak's) 31 years' service at Leicester. He would say this without fear of contradiction. It was true Mr. Phillipson had worked them hard. It was rather too bad, now the office had been got into good working order, and they had a reasonable hope that their three years—he might almost say, of slavery, had come to an end, that Mr. Phillipson should go away and leave them to the tender mercies of a stranger. He hoped, however, and he was sure it was the wish of them all, that in his new sphere in the balmy breezes of Devon, Mr. Phillipson and family might enjoy good health; that he would find as loyal a staff at Plymouth as he had found at Leicester; and that the members of that staff might be sufficiently robust to stand the drilling which he was sure Mr. Phillipson would not hesitate to put them through, if he found it necessary to do so, either for the benefit of the service or for their own official good. Mr. Leak concluded by presenting Mr. Phillipson, on behalf of the staff, with a clock and ornaments, together with a floor lamp, at the same time expressing the hope that when at Plymouth he would not be required to put in such late afternoons at the office, and so find plenty of use for the lamp at his own fireside.

Mr. T. Phillipson, in reply, said he was much gratified and deeply impressed with this evidence of the staff's goodwill in his regard. No man could build a house without material, and no general could lead an army to victory without loyal officers and good fighting men. If, therefore, the discipline of the Leicester office was all that could be desired, and if the postal and telegraph staff would bear most favourable comparison with the men of other important offices—which it would—then a large amount of praise was due to those who had worked so ably and so willingly with him in the administration of the office. After eulogising the loyalty of Mr. Leak and others, he proceeded: Like other men, he (Mr. Phillipson) had his failings. Like other men, he had made errors of judgment, and he might sometimes also have been wanting in sympathy in his dealings with others. These were his own regrets. This handsome testimonial would serve to remind him of his pleasant Leicester associations, and of his happy relations with them.

### Lues Traciturnerelliana.

WE reprint the following from the *South London Press* of the 3rd August. The italics are ours, but further comment would be superfluous:—

Mr. D. H. Somerville, late postmaster at the South-Eastern district post office, was the recipient on Wednesday evening of an interesting presentation, on his leaving to take up a more important position at the South-Western district office. The presentation took the form of

a magnificent gilt clock, a pair of vases to match, a gold signet ring, and a purse containing a *cheque for £44 2s. 1d.* In handing these to Mr. Somerville, Mr. J. Elliott, the chief clerk, spoke in eulogistic terms of that gentleman's eight years' service at the South-Eastern office, and expressed the regret of the whole staff at his departure. Mr. Somerville returned his thanks to those who had subscribed towards the testimonial, which comprised his personal staff, the overseers, *sorters*, and other officials at the South-Eastern district office, the telegraph staff and *telegraph messengers*, and the *town sub-postmasters*. The clock bore the following inscription:—"Presented to D. H. Somerville, Esq., postmaster, South-Eastern district, on his transfer to the South-Western district post office, in July, 1895, as a mark of the high esteem in which he is held by the staff who have been under his control from 1887 till 1895." Mr. S. E. Cooper is Mr. Somerville's successor.

### The "Central News," the Prince of Wales, and the Telegraph.

I was especially interested in the article on this subject, writes R.W.J., having been associated with Mr. Saunders in the telegraphic operations in St. Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the great national thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince of Wales. I remember we were located in a gallery on the Paternoster Row side of the building, at a great height from the floor, where we could only hear with difficulty, and where, I imagine, our operations were entirely unheard. So great was the altitude at which we were situated, that the vast crowd beneath looked like mere pigmies, and, I remember, I had the greatest difficulty in picking out the Lord Provost of my native city of Edinburgh, who was one of the invited dignitaries. It was less difficult with the Queen and Royal Family, who were seated in chairs of state on a dais underneath the dome; but even these looked like royalties in miniature from such a giddy height. I have had many experiences in telegraphing from all sorts of unlikely places—from barns, back kitchens, outhouses, ice-houses, vans, tents, and so forth. But this is the only occasion on which a cathedral formed the scene of my operations, although it is not the first time I have telegraphed from a church. I think it was Mr. Saunders who asked for telegraphic facilities at the Crystal Palace on the occasion of one of the earliest of the Handel Festivals, when we were located in one of the galleries of the vast building; and it was here, too, that the moves in a great chess tournament were telegraphed direct to many towns throughout the kingdom. Reverting to the illness of the Prince of Wales, I remember I was in Liverpool, in connection with the strike of telegraphists, when the prayer for the recovery of his Royal Highness was telegraphed, and heard the several petitions recited in one of the churches in that city. If I remember correctly, we were in a great quandary as to the propriety of delivering the prayer to one of the clergy during the progress of

the service. While the prayer was being telegraphed all over the country, two members of the Special Staff were silently "pegging away" at Sandringham, answering enquiries as to the prince's condition from all the Royalties of Europe, and from most of the noble families of England. On a single day nearly 350 messages passed over the wire, and the total for the whole period of the illness was within a fraction of 5,000. This did not include press messages, which were sent from Lynn, and I think Mr. Forbes has somewhere graphically described the race from Sandringham to that place with the midnight bulletin, on those dark, dreary nights in December, 1872. From the 7th to the 16th of that month, during the crisis of the prince's illness, the two members of the Special Staff literally "slept in their clothes," when they slept at all, and they were never so far away from the instrument that they could not grasp the key at any moment. They slept in the office, in fact, and had a very trying time of it for more than a month. But they had their reward, for the prince had hardly recovered his wonted health when he bestowed upon each of them a handsome souvenir.

Unquestionably, the "Central News," *i.e.*, Mr. Saunders, played a great part in connection with the illness of the prince, even if it did not actually "save his life." Soon after this Mr. Saunders visited America, and wrote a book entitled, "Through the Light Continent," which Mr. Gladstone described as "the most interesting and best stocked with information among all the books by travellers in America that I have read." Mr. Saunders presented me with a copy of the volume, inscribed "with the writer's kind regards," and I have derived the utmost enjoyment from it on many occasions during the past fifteen years. Strange to say, however, it is wholly silent on the subject of the Post Office and the Telegraph; but the following with reference to American newspapers will be read with interest:—

"American newspapers are conducted with an energy at least equal to that which is manifested in the United Kingdom. The daily papers published in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco occupy a metropolitan position, and may be compared with newspapers published in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh. Their telegraphic news is wonderfully comprehensive, their local news very lively and somewhat personal, their leading articles always interesting. It seems to be a standing instruction to all connected with American papers that they must on no account be dull; if the facts to be given are not exciting, the imagination must be drawn upon. Every inch of the paper, including the money article, must be lively. They advocate with sparkling energy the views and objects to which they are devoted; but, with one or two exceptions, they are not patterns of consistency."

This, too, with reference to lady reporters in the House of Representatives and the Senate at Washington, is characteristic:—

"I wonder if Colonel Forester and the "Father" of the English Press Gallery are aware that in the United States women are admitted

as reporters to the galleries set apart for members of the press. In America you can no longer say gentlemen of the press; you must say ladies and gentlemen of the press. But the ladies did not take the position without the exercise of much perseverance. The judicious officer who corresponds to our active sergeant-at-arms, when he was first applied to for their admission, appropriated a portion of the general ladies' gallery for ladies of the press, but this did not satisfy them. With the gentlemen of the press the ladies resolved to be. This was conceded, as everything is conceded which ladies in America demand."

Mr. Saunders was something more than a mere press man; he was a man of the world, and fought his way both into the House of Commons and the London County Council. He founded several newspapers, all of which are alive and successful to-day; and in spite of his fads about socialism and total abstinence, he did much useful work in his day and generation. He was unquestionably the most original, ingenious, and enterprising of all the news-purveyors of his time, and he was a born diplomatist. He always knew exactly what he wanted, and always meant to have it. When he delivered his ultimatum, and closed, or rather clenched, his lips in the peculiar manner which will be familiar to those who remember him, you felt that you might just as well give in at once, just as the Lord Chamberlain had to give in and allow the cathedral to be converted into a telegraph office for the nonce. For all this, he was a most interesting man to know, and a most kindly man in private life.

### The Bormoor Highwayman.

**A**BOUT the year 1800 (says *Chambers's Journal* of December 1838), during the period of the formation of the canal over Box-Moor, a robbery of the mail bags was effected one night by a man named Snook, which created a great sensation at the time. The mail bags were in those days carried by horse, and on the night in question the man who had them in charge was stopped and compelled to carry the bags to a solitary spot, and then told to go about his business. The next morning the bags were found with part of their contents in a field by some labourers. Information was immediately given to the Postmaster of the district, Mr. Page, of the King's Arms, Berkhamsted, who forthwith proceeded to the Post Office in London, where he delivered what had been found to Mr. Freeling, and for the time all clue to the perpetrator of the robbery was lost.

Snook obtained by this adventure a large booty, having from one letter alone abstracted property to the amount of £500. With this he hastened to London, the needy villain's home, and took up his abode in the borough of Southwark. There one of those incautious acts which commonly follow or accompany crime, had nearly betrayed him into the hands of justice. He sent a servant from the house where he resided to purchase a piece of cloth for a coat, and gave her what she understood was a five-pound note. When this, as



such, was presented in payment for the cloth, the tradesman said there must be some mistake. The female returned to Snook, who thought it advisable to decamp, and he directed his steps to Hungerford in Wiltshire, which was his native place. There he for some time eluded pursuit, although a reward of £300 had been offered for his apprehension. He was at length taken, in consequence of being recognised by a post boy who had been his school-fellow. Carried to Hertford he was put on his trial, and found guilty. Instructions were then given to Mr. Page, who was high constable of the district as well as postmaster, to select a place for his execution, as near as possible to the scene of his crime, so as not to give annoyance to the neighbourhood, and it was intended that he should be hung in chains; but this being petitioned against by those who resided in or near Box-moor, the design was abandoned. The criminal conducted himself with great fortitude. He proposed to one whom he had formerly known, to give him his watch, on condition that he should take away his remains, but the party applied to, unwilling to have attention fixed on him as the friend of such a character, declined the offer. It was in consequence determined that he should be buried under the gallows. The apparatus of death, brought from Hertford, having been erected, he was placed in a cart, and from that launched into eternity. After the corpse was cut down, it was asked if anyone would give him a coffin. Nobody came forward, and the hangman having stated that the clothes of the dead man were now his property, proceeded to strip the body for interment. His garments had been removed with the exception of the lower part of his dress, when Mr. Page interfered, and insisted that some regard should be had to decency, and that those should not be taken from the defunct malefactor. A hole was then dug beneath the fatal tree on which he had suffered, and a truss of straw having been procured, half of it was thrown into the grave, and the corpse being placed on it, the other half was thrown on the body, and the earth was without further ceremony filled in. But the people of Hemel Hempsted, hurt at the manner in which a wretched fellow creature had thus been entombed, subscribed to purchase a coffin, which on the following day they carried to the place where the dead robber had paid the last penalty of the law, re-opened the grave, and deposited the lifeless form in the coffin so compassionately subscribed for, and the earth was immediately again closed over him.

### **Katoomba and Homebush Post Offices.**

**K**ATOOMBA is a mountain sanatorium 3333 feet above sea level and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hours' journey on the main Western Railway line from Sydney. It is famous for its fern gullies and waterfalls, and is visited by tourists from all parts of the world. In the summer time the business of the office is such that the officials are kept hard at work from early morning till late at night, but in the winter the town is deserted by all but the residents, and consequently

things official are very dull during that season. Our first illustration shows the old office where business was carried on for about seven years with a staff of five persons, viz.: a postmaster, one operator,



OLD POST OFFICE, KATOOMBA, N.S.W.

one letter carrier, and two messengers. As the business increased it was found necessary to have larger accommodation both for officials and the public, so the Department arranged to rent a building.

Our next picture shows the present building. It is of brick, and contains, in addition to the office, a postmaster's residence of eight rooms, replete with all modern conveniences. The office itself is a lofty room about 20 feet by 30 with ample counter space and conveniences for the public, such as a table and chairs for letter-



POST OFFICE, KATOOMBA, N.S.W.

writing, &c. Under the awning in front of the office the postmaster has fitted an electric bell, manufactured wholly by himself, even to the coils and hammer. On receipt of the "Time Ticks" (1 p.m.) daily by telegraph from Sydney, this bell is rung to enable the residents to set their clocks to Sidney time. Again at 9.25 p.m. the bell is rung to give warning that the last mail will close in five minutes (9.30 p.m.). The novelty of this bell is often favourably commented on by the visitors who pass the office. The building is leased by the Post Office authorities from one of Katoomba's prominent townsmen for a period of ten years, at the comparatively low rental of £100 per annum, and was opened for business in March, 1894.

Homebush is a flourishing suburb eight miles from Sydney on the main suburban line. The population is chiefly composed of "City Men" whose residences are generally very large. As will be seen by the third illustration, the office does not accord with these surroundings, and is indeed ill suited for the requirements of the staff who may be seen standing in front of the little "pigeon box," as it is often termed. When the afternoon mail arrives at 2.30, and the



POST OFFICE, HOMEBUSH, N.S.W.

Sydney one is also being despatched, the carriers at the same time sorting their "beats," it is not an easy matter for one of the staff to move about the office without treading on some officer's toes. Twice tenders have been asked for the erection of a new office; twice the hopes of the residents have been blighted. The first tenders closed, but none were accepted on account of there being no funds available for building purposes. Latterly one was accepted, but the contractor found he had tendered too cheaply and could not

carry out the work. So the old "Homebush Box" still stands, an eyesore to passers by. It is sincerely hoped that ere the illustration appears in *St. Martin's-le-Grand* a start will have been made with the erection of a more modern edifice.

A. R. T.

### A Doubtful Endorsement.

THE *Eastern Morning News* is responsible for the following anecdote of the late Dr. Harper, Canon of York and ex-vicar of Selby. Dr. Harper is generally regarded as the author of the famous "Beer and Bible" phrase. His style of preaching would certainly appear to have been quaint and unconventional.

The postmaster of Selby was a great friend of the vicar, and, in virtue of his friendship, occupied a prominent place in the chancel, and was frequently alluded to in the course of the doctor's sermons. One of them was preached on the words, "To the saints at Ephesus." The learned doctor showed there was no difficulty in delivering the missive thus addressed in St. Paul's time, but questioned what would be done if a letter arrived addressed to the saints at Selby. He pictured the postmaster taking it up, turning it over, scratching his head, and finally giving it up; he did not know where the saints in Selby lived. Then the preacher pictured his calling up the various postmen, Peter, John, &c. "Do you know where the saints in Selby live?" A negative answer was returned. Then the question arose how to endorse the letter. "*Not known*" would seem to stamp the town with too pronounced a reputation. "*Gone away*" would imply an identification he was not prepared to allow, so he concluded to endorse it, "*Insufficiently addressed*," and, turning to his friend, inquired, "Would that do, postmaster?"

### Children's Country Holidays Fund.

THE following is a statement of the amounts subscribed by various departments of the Post Office for this excellent fund during the present year. We are glad to note that the contributions from the Post Office increase year by year, and that the very substantial total of over £400 has now been reached. By its means more than 800 poor London children have had a fortnight's holiday in the country, during the pleasant summer which has just ended. Hitherto the subscriptions have been confined to London offices; but this year the help of the Provincial Surveyor's Department has been invoked, with very satisfactory results.

Oft repeated thanks are received from the society for the aid thus given, and in a recent letter the secretary (Mr. Cyril Jackson) writes as follows:—

"The Post Office collection is quite one of our best testimonials and most pleasant gifts—coming, as it does, from all branches and

ranks of the public service and showing such universal kindness. Please believe we are really grateful."

Office.	Amount.	Office.	Amount.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Secretary's and Solicitor's		Brought forward ...	334 3 0
Offices ... } 13 5 9		West Central District, }	6 19 1
Do. Registry ... } 1 13 6		London ... }	26 5 5
Receiver and Accountant		Paddington do. ... }	15 8 1
General's Office Men Staff } 14 4 0		Norwood do. ... }	5 5 9
Do. Women Staff ... } 15 4 9		Ealing do. ... }	2 19 6
Savings Bank Men Staff ... } 16 7 11		Wimbledon Sub-Office ... }	1 8 0
Do. Women Staff ... } 16 16 0		Provincial Surveyor's De-	
Returned Letter Office ... } 2 6 6		partment—	
London Postal Service, }		North Eastern District ... }	0 18 0
Controller's Office ... }		North Western do. ... }	0 19 6
Do. East Central, In-		North Wales do. ... }	0 18 6
land and Branch Offices }		South Wales do. ... }	1 0 0
Money Order Office ... }		North Midland do. ... }	0 15 0
Medical Department ... }		South Midland do. ... }	0 15 0
Postal Stores ... }		South Eastern do. ... }	1 4 6
Telegraph Stores ... }		South Western do. ... }	0 14 6
Central Telegraph Office ... }		Western do. ... }	0 15 0
Engineer-in-Chief's Office }		Eastern do. ... }	0 15 0
South Western District }		Northern Scotland do. ... }	0 16 0
Office, London ... }		Southern do. do. ... }	0 16 0
South Eastern do. ... }		Midland do. do. ... }	0 14 0
Eastern do. ... }		Northern Ireland do. ... }	0 10 0
Northern do. ... }		Southern do. do. ... }	0 12 6
Western do. ... }			
North Western do. ... }			
Carried forward ...	£334 3 0	Total ...	£404 12 4

This list will be published by the society in their annual report, copies of which will in due course be furnished to the heads of the departments concerned.

Mr. C. H. Bundy, of the Secretary's Office, is the collector for the Fund in the Post Office.

### A Canadian Idea.

THE following letter addressed to Mr. A. G. Babington will, we are sure, be read with interest, and no doubt those of us who are lucky enough to have an opportunity of visiting Canada will bear in mind Colonel White's kind invitation.

Post Office, Ottawa,  
20th July, 1895.

Dear Sir,

I observe from an article in the July number of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* that you were in Canada last year, and that you made an attempt to see me but that I was engaged at that moment; I trust that if you or any other member of the Post Office staff in the United Kingdom should visit Canada in the future, you will kindly send in your name, and I will take care that you do not go away

without making my acquaintance. I think it would be a good thing to have a sort of rule that all Post Office officials visiting Canada should report themselves at Ottawa, as I am sure it would very often happen that we could be of service to them, and as an old Post Office employé, I should only be too glad to render service at any time.

Regretting that I missed the opportunity of making your acquaintance,

Believe me, yours very truly,  
WM. WHITE.

### Very Refreshing.

THE opening of the Refreshment Club in the General Post Office North, on the 10th September, was the accomplishment of a purpose that has been kept in mind steadily for many years. It was felt to be a defect in organisation that, while ample provision has for years been made for the postmen and sorters in the General Post Office East, and for the telegraphists in the General Post Office West, to obtain dinner or tea on the premises, no similar accommodation was available for those who, for want of a better term, are designated the major establishment.

A refreshment room was indeed provided from about 1863 to 1869, when the General Post Office East sufficed to contain nearly the whole of the staff. It was located in a dull dark room on the basement at the south end of the building, and was managed by a caterer, one Rudkin, at that time a person of some importance in the City. It was not successful, however, and after languishing for a time it was ultimately crowded out to make room for the Telegraphs. The Telegraphs were also responsible for the fact that no space for a refreshment room could be spared in the new General Post Office West, which was occupied in 1873; and consequently the question of meeting a recognised want remained, perforce, in abeyance. But when the appropriation of space in the General Post Office North was under consideration, the provision of space for the purpose was not lost sight of, and the result has been the formation, with the approval of the authorities and the co-operation of the Office of Works, of the spacious and convenient dining room and kitchen which are now in full work.

The club is open to all members of the major establishment who pay a nominal subscription of 5/- a year each. The management is in the hands of a Committee of 20, half of whom are nominated by the Postmaster-General, and half elected by the members. As in other cases, the fittings and furniture are provided and maintained by the department and a liberal contribution is made towards the cost and maintenance of the equipment.

The preliminary arrangements have entailed a great deal of thought and labour on the Committee, but the Club has made a good start and is likely to prove a great boon to the officers for whom it is intended.

## The Post Office Cricket Club in 1895.

**A**LTHOUGH perhaps not to be compared with the season of 1893, when out of 17 matches brought to a definite issue 14 were won, the season just concluded must be regarded, from a cricket point of view, as a very successful one. In all 21 matches were played. Of these 10 were won, 6 lost, and 5 drawn—a record considerably above the average of past years.

The measure of success obtained by the team has been almost entirely due to its batting strength. The bowling was only mediocre; the fielding, with occasional startling exceptions, verged on the discreditable. Time after time dropped catches materially affected the result, and until some improvement is manifested in this direction, the capital performances of our batsmen must, to a great extent, be neutralized. It need hardly be pointed out, too, how this general lack of smartness in the field affected the bowlers, who were seldom able to do themselves full justice. The batting performances may, however, be referred to with the greatest satisfaction. The averages given below speak for themselves, but it is impossible to pass without comment the exceptionally fine form shown by Messrs. Dodgson and Hirst, the figures of the latter at one period of the season for consecutive innings actually reading as follows: 65, 102\*, 73, 88\*, 52\*, 45. Below are given the principal batting averages (qualification 6 innings).

Name.	No. of innings.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total No. of runs.	Average.
Hirst, F. K. ...	14	4	102*	547	54'7
Dodgson, W. J. P. ...	12	2	54*	327	32'7
Westell, A. E. ...	7	—	37	187	26'7
Fleming, J. B. H. ...	15	3	39	241	20
Smith, W. Lyle ...	12	2	57	161	16'1
Bell, A. D. ...	8	2	42	93	15'5
Owen, W. ...	6	—	40	89	14'8
Frizell, W. M. ...	6	—	23	82	13'6
Cane, E. ...	8	—	27	81	10'1

Turning to the bowling, Mr. Hirst again occupies premier position, having taken over 50 wickets at an average cost of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  runs a wicket. The value of this gentleman's services to the club cannot well be overestimated. The remainder of the work has fallen principally upon Messrs. Heighley and Cole. Messrs. T. D. Jones and Wylie also bowled at times with great effect, but were unfortunately not able to assist the club as often as was desired.

The Committee have decided to arrange a long list of fixtures for the season of 1896, and, as the strongest available team will be at all times necessary, it is hoped that members with whom the secretaries are not personally acquainted will not hesitate to communicate with one of them with a view to inclusion in the team.

\* Signifies "not out."

The committee also wish to tender their thanks to heads of branches for the readiness with which they have given facilities for the playing of occasional mid-week matches—always one of the most enjoyable features of Post Office Cricket.

It is much to be regretted that the financial position of the club is not wholly satisfactory. An exceptionally busy season has necessarily proved an exceptionally expensive one, and the deficit shown in the balance sheet submitted early in the year has been somewhat increased. Several donations, however, have been promised, and it is hoped that when the General Meeting takes place in October a more satisfactory condition of affairs will be reported.

J. B. H. F.



H. C. HART.

### The late Mr. H. C. Hart.

BY the death on the 30th August of Mr. Herbert Cheney Hart, of the Engineer-in-Chief's Office, General Post Office, the telegraph service in its present rapid development loses an officer who could ill be spared. His death actually took place from exhaustion a few hours after his undergoing an operation, the strain proving too much for his enfeebled strength.

Mr. Hart was at the time of his decease a First Class Technical Officer in the Engineer-in-Chief's Office, which he joined soon after the transfer in 1870. His period of service had therefore exceeded a quarter of a century. He was a son of the late Mr. Robert Hart, Barrister-at-Law, and was educated at Boulogne. He was a man of considerable business capacity and ripened judgment, and as an observer of men and things, he possessed remarkable shrewdness, albeit in his social and official relations he was alike unpretentious and unselfish. At a time of difficulty or crisis in commercial or private life, the service of his counsel and help was frequently



sought, and was ever cheerfully rendered. He always took a deep interest in the well-being of his fellows, and in addition to innumerable acts of quiet benevolence, he was daily undertaking no little trouble, and performing acts of real sacrifice, to help in one way or another the progress of young fellows who repaired to him under circumstances of need or perplexity.

The article which appeared over his name in a recent number of this magazine in connection with the Post Office Employés' Mutual Guarantee Society, was appreciated for the ready grasp and far-seeing wisdom it exhibited concerning an intricate and delicate problem, and his election to the Committee by so overwhelming a majority of votes proved in how large a measure he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his colleagues in the Post Office service in all parts of the United Kingdom.

His fellow members of the Engineer-in-Chief's staff miss in him a tried and valued friend, and his loss is in every sense deeply regretted. He was laid to rest on September 2nd in Elmer's End Cemetery, his funeral being attended by a goodly number of representatives of various branches of the Post Office. He leaves a widow and four boys, with whom in their sad bereavement much genuine sorrow is felt.

T. H. S.

### The Danish Postal Almanac for 1895.

(S. Thomsen. Odense.)

WE must plead that old but too true excuse, "pressure of other matter," as the reason for delaying so long acknowledging the fourth issue of the Odense Almanac. We regret this all the more that we find in this volume, under the heading "St. Martin's-le-Grand," a gracious reference to our own selves, and a literal translation of the few lines with which we welcomed the third number.

The characteristic features of the almanac are again reproduced, and the work itself excellently edited. We have the same records—and very full ones—of appointments, promotions, and, unfortunately, a long list of those who have passed away, some at strikingly early ages.

The more lively portion of the handbook includes a story or two, one of which, "Damocles, a story for big Children," we venture to recommend to any of our readers who have the grace to claim that title, and have leisure enough to linger in that nursery of our language and folklore yclept the Norse tongue.

### Bibliothèque Postale Universelle.

SOME months ago we gave a cordial welcome to the first volume of Mr. de Zülów's *Universal Postal Library*. The pamphlet dealt with the treatment of "Avis de Réception," and in ordinary parlance seemed to "supply a long-felt want." The same cannot be

said of the second volume just issued, entitled, "Applications for Ordinary Articles which have failed to reach their Destination." We grant that the list of official addresses given at pages 8 to 13 is useful, but what can be said of all the rest?

Here is the "argument." Our familiar friend Form "H" is trotted out, and to each of the questions which appear on this enquiry sheet a number of more or less relevant answers are given in five languages, viz., English, German, French, Spanish, and Italian. Every C.E.B. officer is aware that Form "H" contains twenty-one questions. Mr. de Zülow supplies 200 answers to these, an average of about ten to each question. What is the object of these answers? For whose benefit are they written? The sender of a missing letter fills in part of the "H" form, the addressee another part. Are applicants in future to be debarred the use of the form until they have studied the models herein set forth? Or are the questions so hard of comprehension that officials only can answer them after passing a sort of qualifying examination? We cannot say, and prefer to give one or two extracts from this new Mangnall.

*Question r.*—In the former case to whom are they (the packets) handed?

*Answers:*

- 173. To a clerk (*or* shop man).
- 174. To my house made (*sic*).
- 175. To the addressee's maid servant.
- 176. The addressee in person fetches (*sic*) them from the Post Office.

*Question t.*—Has correspondence often been lost?

*Answers:*

- 186. It is the first time whilst I am in Servia, since 20 years.
- 187. As far as I know, it is the first time, since I am residing in the institute, that any packet did not arrive in my hands.

We hope that the third volume, dealing with *Etablissement de Bulletins de Vérification*, will give us a better opportunity for showing our appreciation of the author's undoubted zeal and industry.

S. E.

## A Stamp Catalogue.

A COPY of the 10th edition of *Stanley Gibbons' Descriptive Catalogue of Postage Stamps, 1895-6*, has reached us. Not being philatelists we hardly know what to say about the work, but as several of our timbrological friends assert that it is the best catalogue in the market we are content to record their opinion for the benefit of any stamp-lovers amongst our readers. Immense industry has certainly been displayed in the compilation of this work

of 600 and odd pages. A list of technical terms in English, French, German, and Spanish, is included, and might prove of occasional service in Post Office work. Incidentally we notice that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons claim to possess the two rarest stamps in the world, the 1d. and 2d. Post Office Mauritius of 1847. £680 was paid for these two stamps.

### A Lesson on the Parcel Post.

AS far back as 1892 we drew attention to a little publication called *La Poste, Le Télégraphe, Le Téléphone, Notions usuelles à la Portée de Tous*, which is used as a reading book in French primary schools. There is no similar work in the English language, and hitherto our children have had to pick up their knowledge of postal matters as best they could. An article in a recent number of *The Girls' Mistress*, called "Notes of a Lesson on the Parcel Post," is therefore to be welcomed as a step in the right direction. It appears from this article that the girls at one of the Brighton schools have been taught to discriminate between a parcel, a book-package, and a letter-package; have been told how parcels should be packed, addressed and posted, and instructed as to the limits of size and weight, rates of postage, &c. All this is excellent. The article is quite a model one, for the information given is clear, concise, and correct.

### Das Buch von der Weltpost.\*

THE issue of a third edition of this magnificent work is but one of several indications that our German colleagues take a keen interest in Post Office history. The book gives an account of the many and various modes of conveyance and means of communication adopted by mankind from the remotest antiquity to the present time. Harking back to the beginning of things, we learn how the world's postal intercourse fared in days when the Assyrian was inventing his cuneatic characters and the Egyptian was attempting his first hieroglyph. From this starting point we are carried forward, past Greek and Roman and early German, and pause not until the full triumphs of 19th century achievement have been lovingly displayed.

Many beautiful illustrations add to the attractiveness and value of this unique book. Some of them are reproduced from pictures and models shown in the Berlin Postal Museum. There is indeed a vital connection between museum and book. Both treat of Post Office development in strict chronological sequence, and as the survey in

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\* *Das Buch von der Weltpost, Entwicklung und Wirken der Post und Telegraphie im Weltverkehr.*—Berlin, 1894.

each case is of necessity based on the same historic material, the book might almost be called a running commentary on the museum exhibits, and the exhibits the outward and visible symbols of the book's subject-matter. The amazing industry and wide knowledge which have helped to make the works of Teutonic writers the text-books of Europe, are fully apparent in this "History of the Development and Function of the Post and Telegraph Services throughout the World."

S. E.

### "After Office Hours."

**I**N his article under the above heading in the July number of the Magazine our much valued colleague, Mr. Edward Bennett, foreshadowed, *more suo*, his renunciation of so-called single blessedness. Apart from the usual congratulatory emotions called forth by such a deliverance, the occasion was welcomed by Mr. Bennett's numerous friends in the Savings Bank and other branches of the Post Office as an opportunity of testifying in a substantial manner to the high esteem in which he is held by all who know him. Thus it happened that in the Savings Bank Department, on the 9th September, in the presence of a numerous company, Mr. Bennett was presented with a handsome silver tea and coffee service, &c., &c. In the absence of the Controller, Mr. C. D. Lang, who had proposed to make the presentation on behalf of the subscribers, this pleasing duty was gracefully performed by Mr. J. A. J. Housden, in a speech in which playfulness and earnest good feeling were happily blended. Mr. F. J. Beckley also spoke, as representative of the Magazine and subscribers in the Secretary's Office, and Mr. H. C. Somers on behalf of former savings bankers now attached to the L.P.S. and other departments; after which Mr. Bennett made an appropriate and feeling response.

In a humorous reference to the essay on "Single Blessedness" in Mr. Bennett's book *The Amenities of Social Life*, Mr. Housden remarked that, though the author begins by stating that "the married man gives to his wife and children that which the bachelor gives to mankind," he later on "hedges" when he speaks of "retaining to the full our reverence for marriage, and for the passion, the absence of which, colour it as beautifully as we may, will always render single blessedness only a second best ideal after all." And so say all of us! And thus is Mr. Bennett's marriage but another evidence of the consistency which invariably characterises the writings of those responsible for *St. Martin's-le-Grand*. The wedding took place on the 12th September, and we feel sure that all our readers will join us in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Bennett a very happy future. To those who have followed Mr. Bennett's articles in our pages it is almost unnecessary to add that the scene of the honeymoon is Switzerland. It is a new "Combination" this time, and, we doubt not, by far the happiest of the series.

## Was it at Thrums?

WE have to thank Mr. Priestley for the following cutting from the *Lancaster Observer*. One wonders whether the writer had Mark Twain's blue jay story in his mind when he wrote it:—

The scene was the post office in New Street, and the time was Saturday evening. An old lady trotted down to the office, and that she was on an important mission was evident. Arrived at the rendezvous she took her letter from its hiding place, and looked carefully at the address, bobbing her head from side to side in admiration and perhaps in awe as she scanned the caligraphy. The portrait of the Queen, too, seemed to give the old body a great deal of delight. Then she approached the letter-box with a good deal of care, and gazed with her dim old eyes through the aperture into the beyond. Nothing but a vision of darkness was to be seen, and a perturbed expression crossed her face. Then a sudden inspiration seized her, and, putting her mouth close to the aperture, she called out, "Are you there?" as though she had rung up a friend by means of the telephone. There was no answer, and again the question was asked, in a louder and more imperious tone, "Are you there?" Still there was no reply, and the old lady looked nonplussed. But her woman's wit came to her aid, and she invaded the interior of the office, where she was observed holding an animated colloquy with one of the officials. What took place inside the office, however, is looked upon as an "official secret," and may not be made public. However, the interview was evidently satisfactory, for the old lady emerged with a look of triumph in her eyes. She once more tried the flap of the envelope, and found that it was fast; then she satisfied herself of the adhesiveness of the stamp; and once more looked at the address. Again she put her face close to the letter-box, and cried, "Are you sure it will go if I put it in?" and waited patiently for the assurance that never came. Meanwhile, other ladies and gentlemen desired to post their letters, but they had to wait, for the old lady stuck to her possession of the aperture with leech-like persistency. "Post your letter, and be done with it," and similar angry exclamations were uttered in vain, and the *fin de siècle* crowd was compelled to wait the pleasure of the ancient dame. Just then a postman came out, and he was buttonholed by the holder of the letter. "Are you sure it will go?" she queried, and there was a ring of pathos in the quavering voice that mollified the rising indignation of the bystanders, as they realized that the epistle was very precious to the sender, and would perhaps be equally precious to the recipient. "Yes," replied the postman cheerily, "put it through the hole, and it will be all right." "But there is no one there," persisted the old lady, "how can it go if there is no one to take it?" "Oh, it's all right," said the postman, and his confident words were echoed by the onlookers. Then the old lady made up her mind. After one more glance at her letter she decided to risk it. Carefully, and yet with apparent hesitation, she put the edge of the missive through the aperture, and then, with a deep drawn breath, gave it the final push

that placed it beyond reach and sight. She looked through the hole again with anxious eyes, but could see nothing, and as a final instruction she said, with her mouth as close as she could get it to the letter-box, "You will be sure to send it, won't you." Then she turned away, and the waiting onlookers were permitted to post their letters. The old lady heaved another sigh, and as she did so she assumed an air of importance—a "something accomplished, something done" kind of style. Pulling her handkerchief from the recesses of her capacious pocket, she mopped her face, and strode away with mixed feelings.

### Odds and Ends.

OUR attention has been called to another connection between this department and the heroes of the Chitral campaign. It appears that one James Graves Kelly was on the 31st December, 1862, appointed to a temporary clerkship in the Secretary's office. In the following August, after examination, he was appointed clerk in the mail office, but on the 30th of September he resigned on receiving an appointment in the army. He is now Colonel Kelly, C.B., and it was he who led the Gilgit column over the snow covered passes to the relief of the Chitral garrison.

\* \* \*

THE proposed international postage stamp is still discussed from time to time in the press. There are those who assert that it could be introduced to-morrow if the English Post Office did not oppose it from mere obstinacy. Such writers, however, are in the minority, and those who think before they write employ themselves in devising solutions for the serious difficulty to which we alluded in our April number. The latest proposal made in the Paris *Débats* is that the stamps should be made and issued solely by the International Bureau at Berne, and that they should be apportioned among the states of the Union according to their population.

\* \* \*

AN interesting paper on "The Queen's Prime Ministers" by Mr. Spencer Walpole appeared in the September number of the *Fortnightly Review*.

\* \* \*

AT the recent meeting of the British Association at Ipswich, Mr. H. Higgs, of the Secretary's Office, read a paper on "Bimetallism with a Climbing Ratio."

\* \* \*

THE following is culled from *Punch* of the 10th August:—

"SORTES SHAKSPERIANÆ."—On the new Postmaster-General:—

"Friend post the Duke of NORFOLK."

*Richard the Third*, Act iv., Scene 4.

And we hope his Grace will be "Friend post," and benefit us all.

IT should have been stated in our last number that the drawings given at pages 275 and 309 are from photographs taken by Mr. F. Pollard, of H.M.T.S. "Alert." We are sorry that we omitted to state this, especially as we get but little support of any kind from the telegraph ships, though we not unfrequently see photographs and sketches from that source in the illustrated papers.

\* \* \*

WE are glad to hear that Mr. C. Stevens, of the Secretary's Office, has accepted the post of conductor to the Post Office Musical Society. Mr. Stevens has had a large experience as a conductor, and we are sure that the Society could not be in better hands.

### Answers to Correspondents.

CAPE COLONY.—Thanks to H. S. for MSS. just received.

\* \* \*

R. writes from Christchurch, N.Z.:—  
"We are working Wheatstone between this office and Wellington successfully. I think this is the first Colony south of the line which has used such apparatus so far."

[We have already answered other points in his letter privately.]

\* \* \*

D. K. writes to us at some length setting forth the vexations, trials, and actual losses which he has incurred in trying to do what he regards as his duty in the higher sense of the word. He ends by quoting from the *Earthly Paradise* the line:—

"Why should I strive to set the crooked straight?"

We can only say in reply that, while it must be admitted that he has very great cause to feel discouraged, we strongly advise him to persevere. The question which Mr. Morris puts in the line quoted was hardly meant seriously, as the context shows; and we feel quite certain as to the sort of answer which its author would have made had the question been put to him. At any rate we can refer D.K. to a much more helpful quotation than that, for we cannot doubt that Matthew Arnold was serious when he wrote his beautiful sonnet on Immortality:—

"Foiled by our fellow men, depressed, outworn,  
We leave the brutal world to take its way,  
And 'Patience, in another life,' we say,  
'The world shall be thrust down, and we upborne!'  
And will not, then, the immortal armies scorn  
The world's poor routed leavings? or will they,  
Who failed under the heat of this life's day,  
Support the fervours of the heavenly morn?  
No! no! the energy of life may be  
Kept on after the grave but not begun!  
And he who flagged not in the earthly strife,  
From strength to strength advancing—only he,  
His soul well knit and all his battles won,  
Mounts, and that hardly, to eternal life."

# Promotions.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sec.'s Office ...	Burrell, P. G. ...	Staff Officer ... ..	Inld. Rev., '81; S.O., G.P.O., '83
Sur.'s    "    ...	Wiles, H. T. ...	Head Sta. Cl. (Sth. West Dis.)	S.C. & T., Guildford, '79; T., Portsmouth, '88; 1st Cl., '91; As. Head Sta. Cl., '93
"    "    ...	Setchell, L. ...	Sur. Sta. Cl. (N.M. Dis.) ... ..	S.C. & T., Bedford, '89
S.B....    ... ..	Bateman, A. H.	As. Contr. ... ..	1864; P.C., '81; Ch. Cl., '91; Sub-Contr., '92
"    ... ..	West, J. H. R. ...	Sub. Contr. ... ..	1865; P.C., '92
E. in C.O. ... ..	Fleetwood, C. T.	Sup. En., London	Elec. T. Co., '54; Senr. In., '78; As. Sup. En., '87
"    ... ..	Banker, S. M. ...	As.       "	Admiralty Tel., '59; Senr. En., '82
"    ... ..	Hook, G. W. ...	"       "	1870; Senr. En., '87
"    ... ..	Collard, E. ...	Ch. Cl., Sup. En. Off., London ...	Univ. P.T.Co., '69; G.P.O., '70
"    ... ..	Bathurst, N. ...	2nd Cl. En. ... ..	T., T.S., '71; E. in C.O., '80; Senr. Cl., '92
"    ... ..	Wood, E. J. ...	"       "    ... ..	T., T.S., '80; Ju. Cl., E. in C.O., '86
"    ... ..	Heath, F. W. ...	Senr. Cl. ... ..	1880; E. in C.O., '84
"    ... ..	Ayre, T. H. ...	"       "    ... ..	T., W.C., '85; E.C., '86; E. in C.O., '87
"    ... ..	Lakey, T.... ...	R.C., Lr. Sec. ... ..	T., Newcastle-on-Tyne, '85; E. in C.O., '94
"    ... ..	Best, F. W. ...	"       E. Dean	T., Newcastle-on-Tyne, '85
"    ... ..	Whibley, E. J....	1st Cl. Ju. Cl. ... ..	T., C.T.O., '84; E. in C.O., '91
C. of S.O. ... ..	Bruce, E. W. ...	2nd Cl. Ex. ... ..	Cl. 2nd Div. S.B., '92; Ju. Ex., C. of S.O., '94
"    ... ..	Garland, W. G. S.	"       "    ... ..	T., C.T.O., '89; Ju. Ex., C. of S.O., '94
C.T.O. ... ..	Pyne, F. A. ...	Sup. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '53
"    ... ..	Preston, F. ...	As. Sup. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '68; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '90
"    ... ..	Chichester, E. W.	"       "    ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '65; 2nd Cl. As. Sup., '90
"    ... ..	Murphy, D. J. ...	"       2nd Cl. ...	1870; Senr. T., '86
"    ... ..	Spratley, A. H.	"       "    ... ..	1870; Senr. T., '86



OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
C.T.O. ... ..	Askew, B. G. ...	As. Sup., 2nd Cl. ...	1872; Senr. T., '86
" ... ..	Burgoyne, A. ...	Senr. T. ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '73; 1st Cl., '85
" ... ..	Hobday, J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '73; 1st Cl., '85
" ... ..	Glass, E. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '73; 1st Cl., '85
" ... ..	Doree, R. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl. T., '73; 1st Cl., '85
" ... ..	Evans, J. H. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Whaley, E. C. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Coomber, F. H. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Smoker, E. A. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Stevenson, C. E. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
" ... ..	Cooper, E. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	O'Brien, E. J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	Miss J. B. Blance	Supr. ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '64
" ... ..	" M. A. Straker	As. Supr. (Hr. Grade)	Elec. T. Co., '64
" ... ..	" A. J. Smith	" (Lr. Grade)	1870; 1st Cl. T., '81
" ... ..	" L. A. Simes	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
" ... ..	" G. A. Sam- ways	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '83
Pl. Stores Dep.	Fewings, R. J. ...	Ju. Cl. ... ..	Cl. 2nd Div. S.B., '92
"	Dalton, M. ...	" ... ..	Cl. 2nd Div. R.A.G.O., '92
"	Gates, C. J. ...	" ... ..	Cl. 2nd Div. M.O.O., '91
"	Cook, W. M. ...	" ... ..	Cl. 2nd Div. S.B., '93
L.P.S.D. (S.W.D.O.)	Somerville, D. H.	Pmr. ... ..	1860; Pmr., Norwood, '85; E.D.O., '86; S.E.D.O., '87
" (S.E.D.O.)	Cooper, W. J. ...	" ... ..	1863; As. Sup., '78; Ch. Cl., '84; Pmr., E.D.O., '90
" (E.D.O.)	Lorrain, J. ...	" ... ..	S.B., '65; Ch. Cl., E.D.O., '85; Pmr., Norwood, '92
" (Norwood)	Ball, R. ...	" ... ..	Cl., L'pool, '60; S.E. D.O., Lon., '70; Ch. Cl., N.D.O., '87; W. D.O., '92
Controller's Off.	Thomas, J. ...	2nd Cl. Cl. ... ..	1871; Cl., C.O., '91
"	Thompson, E. G.	1st. Cl. O. ... ..	1874; 1st Cl. Sr., '90
Circn. Off.	Ager, A. C. ...	In. ... ..	1870; Overseer, '88
"	Griffin, R. ...	" ... ..	1871; " '90
"	Jacob, G. W. ...	Overseer ... ..	1876; 1st Cl. Sr., '83
"	Graham, J. L. ...	" ... ..	1874; " '85
"	Harvey, H. ...	" ... ..	1875; " '86
"	Groves, H. ...	" ... ..	1875; " '86
"	Lockwood, J. B.	" ... ..	1879; " '89
"	Taylor, A. S. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
"	Youd, G. F. K. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
"	Turner, S. E. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '81
"	Walker, H. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
"	Keene, E. J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
"	Thomas, F. S. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
"	Painter, F. C. O.	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
"	Bowbear, J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
"	Dear, R. J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '81
"	Fielder, F. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '80
"	Gee, A. E. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '73
E.C.D.O.	Channing, T. G.	1st Cl. Cm. & Tel.	2nd Cl., '81

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
W.D.O. ... ..	Mann, A. H. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	L. P. T. Co., '67; Cl., W.D.O., '86; Pad., '87
" ... ..	Notcutt, W. C. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ... ..	1886
" ... ..	Jordan, W. ...	" ... ..	1886
N.W.D.O. ... ..	Parfett, R. A. ...	" ... ..	1886
W.C.D.O. ... ..	Kelsey, H. A. ...	" ... ..	1884
Wandsworth ... ..	Price, W. J. ...	" ... ..	1883
" ... ..	Miss C. H. Brice	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	1885

## PROVINCES—ENGLAND AND WALES.

Devonport ... ..	Andrews, G. W. ...	Cl. ... ..	Admiralty T., '59
Exeter ... ..	Hendy, H. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
Folkestone ... ..	Millen, T. ...	Cl. ... ..	1879; S.C. & T., '88; Insp. of Postm., '92
Gloucester ... ..	Hurcombe, J. ...	Sup. (T.) ... ..	S.C. & T., '71; Cl., '87; As. Sup., '92
" ... ..	Allaway, F. H. ...	As. Sup. (T.) ... ..	U.K.T. Co., '69; Cl., '92
" ... ..	Rogers, A. H. ...	Cl. (T.) ... ..	1870; 2nd Cl. T., '71
" ... ..	Dash, A. E. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '81
Hastings ... ..	Nash, E. ...	1st Cl. S.C. & T. ...	1886; 2nd Cl. S.C. & T., '88
Leeds ... ..	Metcalfe, P. ...	As. Sup., 1st Cl. (P.)	S.C. Leeds, '75; Cl., '90; Head Sta. Cl. to Sur. North East Dis., '93
Leicester ... ..	Griffiths, J. ...	Cl. (T.) ... ..	1871; Leicester, '76; 1st Cl. T., '84
Liverpool ... ..	Miss E. A. Oates	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
Manchester ... ..	Mair, H. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Miss E. M. Arthur	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	" C.F.L. Marc- ham	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
Normanton ... ..	Eames, T. B. ...	Cl. ... ..	1875; S.C. & T., '80
" ... ..	Hanby, C. W. ...	1st Cl. S.C. & T. ...	1879
Portsmouth ... ..	Hall, J. ...	Sup. (T.) ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '53; Cl., '86; As. Sup., '91
Preston ... ..	Byrne, T. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
Sheffield ... ..	Wykes, W. ...	As. Sup. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '82; 1st Cl., '91
" ... ..	Smith, C. H. ...	Cl. (P.) ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '74; 1st Cl., '86
" ... ..	Driver, L. J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl. S.C., '81; 1st Cl., '90
" ... ..	Bagshaw, F. W. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
" ... ..	Beel, G. D. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '82
" ... ..	Driver, B. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Smith, S. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Thexton, F. W. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '86
" ... ..	Howe, J. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '86
" ... ..	Connolly, F. ...	As. Supr. (T.) ... ..	Mag. T. Co., '61; Cl., '87
" ... ..	Connolly, B. ...	Cl. (T.) ... ..	" '62
" ... ..	Taylor, W. H. ...	" ... ..	Elec. T. Co., '70
" ... ..	Cookson, H. ...	" ... ..	1871
" ... ..	Morris, C. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '76

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sheffield ... ..	Waterhouse, F....	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '76
" ... ..	Bilbie, R. C. ...	" ... ..	1874; Sheffield, '76
" ... ..	Wells, T. S. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '77
" ... ..	Hodson, H. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '77
Southport ... ..	Fawcett, J. P. ...	Cl. ... ..	Halifax, '81; S.C. & T., Kendal, '85
W. Hartlepool..	Barras, J. ... ..	" ... ..	S.C. & T., '81
York ... ..	Dudley, A. ...	As. Sup. (P.) ...	1877; Cl., '91
" ... ..	Merchant, G. H.	Cl. ... ..	Newc. - on - Tyne, '79; York, '79; 1st Cl. S.C., '91
" ... ..	Bosomworth, F.R.	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Mitchell, A. E....	1st Cl. T. ... ..	" '84
" ... ..	Armstrong, G. ...	" ... ..	Aberdeen, '77; Edin., 81; M'chester, '84; York, '85

## SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen ... ..	Ross, A. S. ...	As. Sup. (P.) ...	1875; Cl., '91
" ... ..	Burnett, J. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Rae, G. ... ..	" ... ..	1881; 2nd Cl. S.C., '86
" ... ..	Sefton, A....	" ... ..	1882; 2nd Cl. S.C., '86
Dundee ... ..	Raitt, J. G. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1876; Cl., '90; As. Sup., '91
" ... ..	Cochrane, A. L.	Sup. ... ..	1869; Cl., '88; As. Sup., '91
" ... ..	Prain, J. S. ...	As. Sup. ... ..	1873; S.C., '76; Cl., '91
" ... ..	Melvin, J. ...	" ... ..	1874; S.C., '79; Cl., '91
" ... ..	Sword, C. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	1878; S.C., '82; 1st Cl., '88
" ... ..	Strachan, J. R.	" ... ..	1882; 1st Cl. S.C., '88
" ... ..	Manson, J. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '84
" ... ..	Ramsey, A. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
Edinburgh ... ..	Miss I. L. Twee- die	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '87
Glasgow ... ..	Miss R. E. Speirs	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '85

## IRELAND.

Belfast ... ..	Sullivan, R. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '86
" ... ..	Healy, J. J. ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
" ... ..	Hansard, A. ...	" ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
Dublin (Sec.'s Off.)	Godden, H. W. ...	P. C. ... ..	1861; A.O., '63; S.O., '66; 1st Cl. Cl., '74
" ... ..	Shannon, W. ...	" ... ..	Mag. T. Co., '62; S.O., Dublin, '70; 1st Cl. Cl., '78
" (Sortg. Off.)	Quirke, W. P. ...	Contr. ... ..	Cl., A.O., '66; S.O., '66; P.C., '91
" (Tel.Off.)	Shanahan, M. J..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	2nd Cl., '85
Ennis ... ..	O'Neill, T. F. ...	Cl. ... ..	T., Waterford, '72
Limerick ... ..	Kelly, W. ... ..	As. Sup. (P.) ...	1867; Cl., '91
" ... ..	McCarthy, J.J.H.	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	2nd Cl., '88

# Retirements.

## LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
R.A.G.O. ...	*Ryan, F. M. ...	2nd Div. Cl. ...	1892
„ (C.H.B.)	*Miss L. McIver.	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	1889
„ „	„ A. M. Ches- son	1st Cl. Cl. ...	1881; 1st Cl., '86
S.B.D. ...	Waller, H. ...	As. P. C. ...	S.B., 67; 2nd Cl., 73; 1st Cl., '84
„ ...	Cooper, F. T. ...	Cl. (old 2nd Cl.) .	1865; 2nd Cl., '74
„ ...	*Miss M. M. Clark- son	2nd Cl. Cl. ...	T., C. T. O., '88; Cl., S.B., '93
C.T.O. ...	Dillon, J. ...	Senr. Tel. ...	1870; 1st Cl., '89
„ ...	Matthews, J. ...	1st Cl. T. ...	1870; 1st Cl., '73
„ ...	Miss M. J. Nor- wood	„ ...	2nd Cl., '75
„ ...	*Miss L. G. Linds- ley	2nd Cl. T. ...	1891
L.P.S.D. (Circn. Off.)	Russell, F. ...	O. ...	1858; Sr., '73
„ ...	Purton, W. H. ...	„ ...	1860; Sr., '74
„ ...	Haynes, A. ...	1st Cl. Sr. ...	1870; 1st Cl., '74
„ ...	Buck, J. E. ...	„ ...	1880; 2nd Cl. S., '83
„ ...	Wilde, J. F. ...	„ ...	1866; 2nd Cl. S., '68; 1st Cl., '74
E.C.D.O. ...	Stannard, T. ...	Supr. ...	Mag. T. Co., '58; Supv., '81
„ ...	Rudd, W. ...	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	Elec. T. Co., '69
„ ...	Burgess, E. ...	„ ...	1870
„ ...	Strutt, W. H. ...	2nd Cl. Cm. & T. ...	Elec. T. Co., '64; 2nd Cl., '75
„ ...	Morgan, W. E. H.	„ ...	1876
S.W.D.O. ...	Miss S. Burrows.	1st Cl. Cm. & T. ...	S.W.D.O., '72; 1st Cl., '84
Paddington ...	*Minter, H. J. ...	2nd Cl. Sr. ...	1890
W.D.O. ...	Hales, J. ...	O. ...	1858; Sr., '73; O., 2nd Cl., '74; 1st Cl., '88
„ ...	Henfrey, W. ...	„ ...	1863; 2nd Cl. O., '74; 1st Cl., '84
„ ...	*Coleman, C. T.	2nd Cl. Sr. ...	1888

\*Awarded a Gratuity.

## PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Bristol ... ..	Burch, J. D. ...	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1882; 1st Cl., '91
Durham ... ..	Bygate, A. ...	Pmr. ... ..	Cl., '54; Pm., '74
Hastings... ..	Balding, T. ...	1st Cl. S.C. & T. ...	1857; 1st Cl., '92
Hexham ... ..	*McGill, J. H. ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1892
Liverpool ... ..	Dent, H. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1885
" ... ..	Lightfoot, W. J..	1st Cl. T. ... ..	Mag. T. Co., '60; 1st Cl., '82
" ... ..	Miss E. McGhie.	" ... ..	1883
Manchester ... ..	*Miss A. C. Lee..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1886
" ... ..	*" B.Brougham	" ... ..	1891
" ... ..	" M. H. Noar	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1876; 1st Cl., '84
Plymouth ... ..	†Reed, W. P. ...	Pmr. ... ..	Cl., Dublin, '52; S.O., Dublin, '54; Sur. Cl., '63; 1st Cl., '67; Pmr. Plymouth, '85
Swansea ... ..	Cronin, W. H....	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1883
Wolverhampton	Bassett, John ...	1st Cl. T. ... ..	1873; 1st Cl., '87
York ... ..	Lawson, W. ...	As. Sup. (P.) ... ..	1862; As. Sup., '91

## SCOTLAND.

Dundee ... ..	Proudfoot, P. ...	Ch. Cl. ... ..	1847
Edinburgh (Surveyors)	Wilkie, C....	Head Sta. Cl. (Mid. Dist.)... ..	1874; Cl., '91; Head Sta. Cl., '93
Edinburgh ... ..	Miss B. Muir ...	Supvr. ... ..	1870; Sup., '81
Glasgow ... ..	*Donald, M. H....	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1886
Kirkcaldy ... ..	Bryson, R. ...	Pmr. ... ..	1855

## IRELAND.

Belfast ... ..	Miss A. Hansard	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1881
Cork ... ..	†White, J. C. ...	Pmr. ... ..	Cl., Dublin, '48; Cl.-in-Ch., '55; Sur. Cl., '67; Pmr., Cork, '74
Dublin ... ..	O'Brien, T. ...	Cl. ... ..	1862; Cl., '91
" ... ..	Miss S. J. Coonan	" ... ..	1886
" ... ..	Miss M. A. T. Doyle	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1872

\* Awarded a Gratuity. † Retires under the provisions of the Order in Council of the 15th August, 1890.

## Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
London (Circn. Off.)	King, G. ... ..	1st Cl. S. ... ..	1873; Sr., '76
"	Pratt, J. G. ... ..	" ... ..	1870
"	Bristow, W. ... ..	" ... ..	1874; Sr., '77; 1st Cl., '86
E. in C. O.	Hart, H. C. ... ..	1st Cl. Techl. Offr.	1870; 1st Cl. '82
"	Waite, T. ... ..	2nd Cl. Jnr. Cl. ... ..	S.C. & T. Newc.-on-Tyne, '73; E. in C.O., '85
R. A. G. O.	Hamilton, W. ... ..	2nd Div. Cl. ... ..	S.B., '83; R.A.G.O., '91
S.B. C.H.B.	Miss A. Falconer	Prin. Cl. ... ..	R.A.G.O., '77; 1st Cl., '86; Prin. Cl., '94
S. B. ... ..	Miss E. E. Murray	Prin. Cl. ... ..	1878; Prin. Cl., '90
" ... ..	Young, W. D. ... ..	2nd Div. Cl. ... ..	1868; Hr. Grade 2nd Div., '90
" ... ..	Abele, L. D. ... ..	" ... ..	S.B., '77; 2nd Div. Cl., '80
" ... ..	Field, A. ... ..	" ... ..	1895
Bradford, Yks.	Shee, Joseph ... ..	Cl. (T.) ... ..	Elec. Tel. Co., '67; Cl., '91
Douglas ... ..	Isdale, W. ... ..	Postmaster ... ..	1869
Cardiff ... ..	Miss M. Williams	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1893
King's Lynn ... ..	Evans, J. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1889
Nantwich ... ..	Miss E. A. Reid	" ... ..	1882
Newcastle - on - Tyne	Kinghorn, P. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	1889
Normanton ... ..	Dowkes, G. ... ..	Cl. ... ..	1874; Cl., '91
Plymouth ... ..	Johnstone, A. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	Ex. Rl. Engr., L'pool, '88; Plymo., '94
Sunderland ... ..	Boughton, J. ... ..	Postmaster ... ..	1864; As. Sup., B'ham., '88; Postmaster, Stafford, '88; Sunderland, '91
Fraserburgh ... ..	Bruce, D. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	1886
Belfast ... ..	McCaw, G. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	S.C. & T., Ballymena, '88; Belfast, '91
Dublin ... ..	Fox, J. ... ..	1st Cl. S.C. ... ..	1874
" ... ..	Johnston, W. J. ... ..	2nd Cl. T. ... ..	Armagh, '84; Dub., '88
" ... ..	Cox, F. J. ... ..	" ... ..	" '77; Dub., '81
Kells ... ..	Weedon, J. ... ..	S.C. & T. ... ..	'90
Mallow ... ..	Hegarty, M. J. ... ..	" ... ..	Clonmel, '82; Mallow, '86

## Postmasters Appointed.

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Bangor ... ..	Jones, D. E....	B'ham, 1868; S.C., '71; As. Sup. (P.), '90; Pmr., Carnarvon, '92
Barking ... ..	Webber, T. J. T...	Devonport, 1880; S.C. & T., '89
Brandon ... ..	Collier, G. E. ...	S.C. & T., Stockport, '84
Coleford ... ..	Miss A. A. Jones ...	—
Douglas, I. of M. ...	Viney, J. L. ...	Cl., Rochester, '67; Ch. Cl., Canterbury, '76; Pmr., Sittingbourne, '80; Ramsgate, '92
Dursley ... ..	Miss R. J. Clark ...	S.C. & T., Middlesbro, '73
Ilkley ... ..	Stanley, W. R. ...	S.C. & T., Bletchley Stn., '78; Cl., '85; Ch. Cl., '91
Leicester ... ..	Harnett, W. V. ...	Cl. S.B., Lon., '68; S.O., '74; Pmr., Carlisle, '92
Nelson ... ..	Woodhouse, W. ...	T., Rochdale, '74; Cl., '87
Northwich ... ..	Gay, S. D. ...	S.C. & T., Exeter, '73; 1st Cl., '82
Pembroke Dock...	Baker, J. W....	Elec. T. Co., '66; Cl., Rotherham, '91; Pmr., Nantwich, '92
Plymouth ... ..	Phillipson, T. ...	Cl., Worcester, '64; Sur. Sta. Cl., '68; Pmr., Banbury, '73; Coventry, '77; Shrewsbury, '88; Leicester, '92
Stoke-on-Trent ... ..	Kerry, C. H. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '54; Tel. Sup., Bristol, '70; Pmr., Warrington, '89
Sunderland... ..	Mosley, P. J. ...	Elec. Tel. Co., '47; Tel. Sup., Newc-on-Tyne, '70; Pmr., Stoke-on-Trent, '92
Swindon ... ..	Durden, H. ...	Cl., Salisbury, '68; Pmr., Stroud, '89
Torquay ... ..	Thrall, B. ...	Cl., Lincoln, '65; Ch. Cl., Hull, '73
Warrington ... ..	West, W. F....	Mag. Tel. Co., '56; Tel. Sup., Hull, '70; Pmr., Banbury, '79; Winchester, '91
Warwick ... ..	Preddy, W. T. ...	S.B., '68; Sr., '70; Pmr., Chepstow, '85; Pembroke Dock, '91
Watford ... ..	Denmead, T. ...	Elec. T. Co., '57; Tel. Sup., Exeter, '71
Peebles ... ..	Noble, A. A....	Inverness, '80; Tel., '82; 1st Cl., '91

### ABBREVIATIONS.

As., Assistant; Cl., Clerk; Cm., Counterman or Counterwoman; En., Engineer; Ex., Examiner; In., Inspector; Ju., Junior; Ms., Messenger; O., Overseer; P.C., Principal Clerk; Pn., Postman; Pmr., Postmaster; Pr. Kr., Paper Keeper; R.C., Relay Clerk; Ret., Returner; Sr., Sorter; S.C., Sorting Clerk; Sup., Superintendent or Superintending; Supr., Supervisor; Sur., Surveyor; T., Telegraphist; Tr., Tracer.

## TO OUR READERS.

**I**n accordance with the announcement made in our last issue, the connection of Mr. F. J. Beckley with this Magazine entirely ceases with the issue of the present number. Having acted as Honorary Secretary from the beginning, and having moreover been Honorary Editor of every number except the first, he feels that he has a right now to ask those who value the continued existence of the Magazine to take up the work which he is no longer able to perform. Efforts have been made to induce suitable men to fill the positions of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor, but hitherto without success. In these circumstances it is, at present, impossible to ask for subscriptions for the year 1896: but it must not, therefore, be assumed that the Magazine has been dropped. Mr. Bennett, who edited BLACKFRIARS MAGAZINE for some years, and who has been so constant a contributor to ST. MARTIN'S, the first number of which he also edited, is most anxious to keep the Magazine afloat, and he asks that all who are willing to help towards that end will communicate with him at once. His address is:—Edward Bennett, c/o Messrs. Griffith & Sons, Prujean Square, E.C. Should Mr. Bennett's efforts be successful, a circular will be sent to all subscribers as soon as possible.

### Summary of Annual Subscriptions for 1895.

London	...	...	...	...	732
England	...	...	...	...	1,656
Scotland	...	...	...	...	331
Ireland	...	...	...	...	68
					— 2,787
Denmark, Germany, Malta, Norway, Sweden,					
Switzerland, Turkey, Russia, France	...	...	...	...	13
China, India, Singapore	...	...	...	...	5
Egypt, The Cape, Natal	...	...	...	...	330
Bermuda, Canada, Newfoundland, United					
States, Trinidad	...	...	...	...	25
New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland,					
Tasmania, Victoria	...	...	...	...	196
					— 569
					3,356

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**BACK NUMBERS.**—On the wrapper will be found a list of all back numbers and volumes still in stock. All communications on this subject should be addressed to F. J. Beckley, c/o Messrs. Griffith & Sons, Prujean Square, E.C.



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